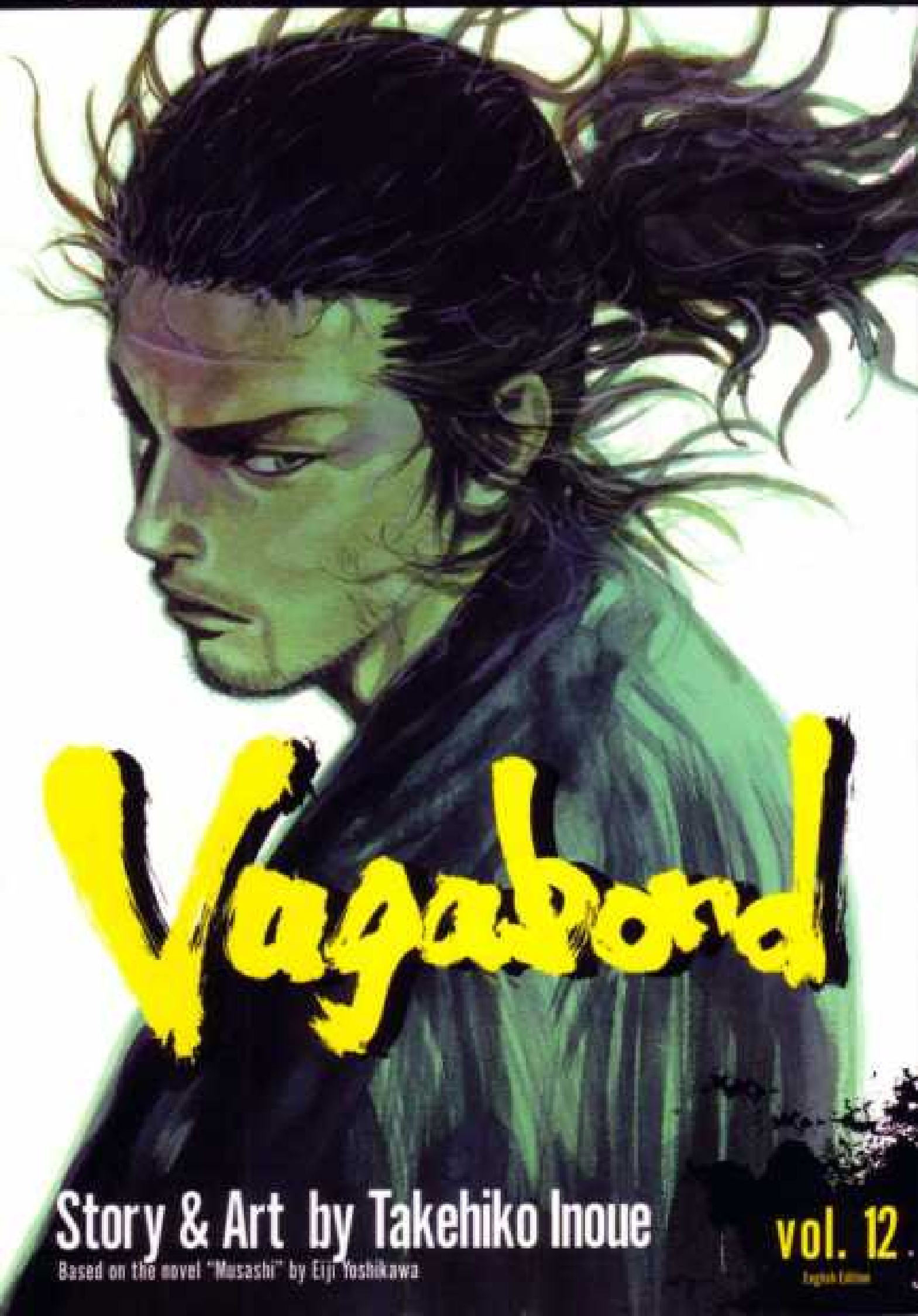
editor's choice



Vagabond

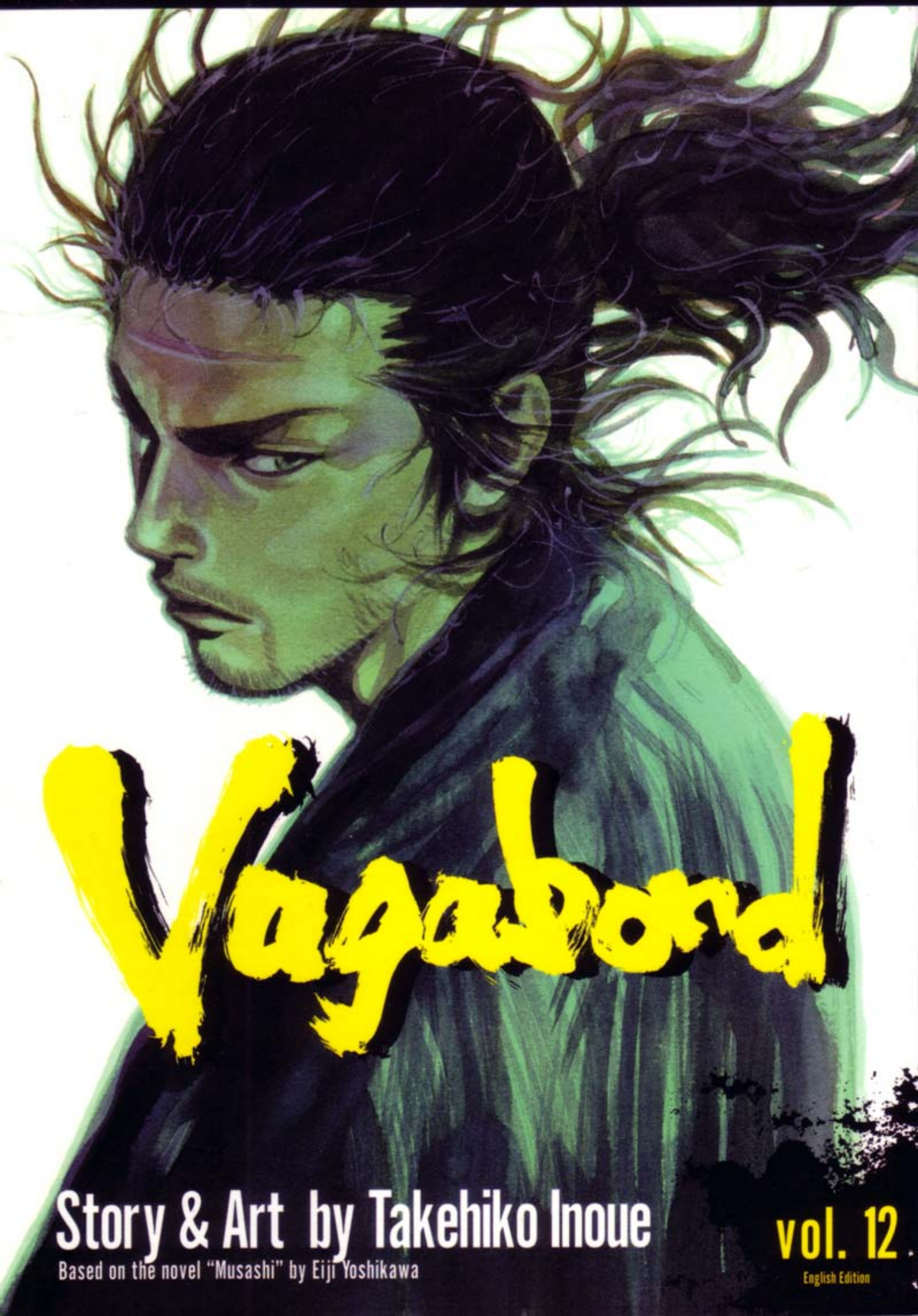
Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue

Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa

vol. 12

English Edition

editor's choice



Vagabond

Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue

Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa

vol. 12

English Edition

Vagabond Vol. 12

Story & Art by
Takehiko Inoue
Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa

English Adaptation/Yuji Oniki
Touch-up & Lettering/Steve Dutro
Cover & Graphics Design/Izumi Evers
Editor/Andy Nakatani

Managing Editor/Annette Roman
Editor in Chief/Alvin Lu
Production Manager/Noboru Watanabe
Sr. Dir. of Licensing and Acquisitions/Rika Inouye
Vice President of Marketing/Liza Coppola
Executive Vice President/Hyoe Narita
Publisher/Seiji Horibuchi

Vagabond
© 1998-2004 I.T. Planning, Inc.

Originally published in Japan in 2001 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
English translation rights arranged with I.T. Planning, Inc.

All rights reserved.
No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. Although based on historical sources, the stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

Printed in Canada.

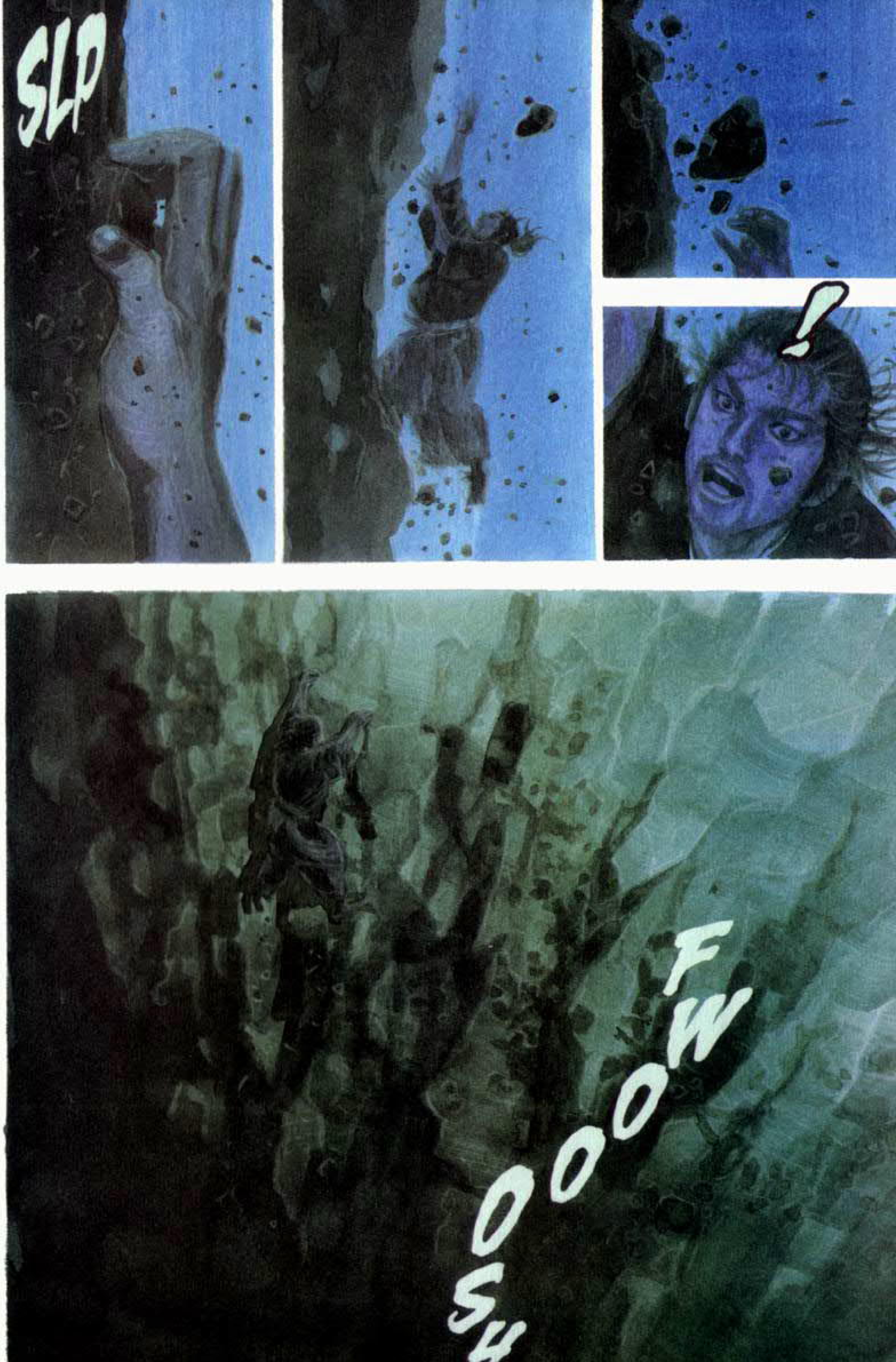
Published by VIZ, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

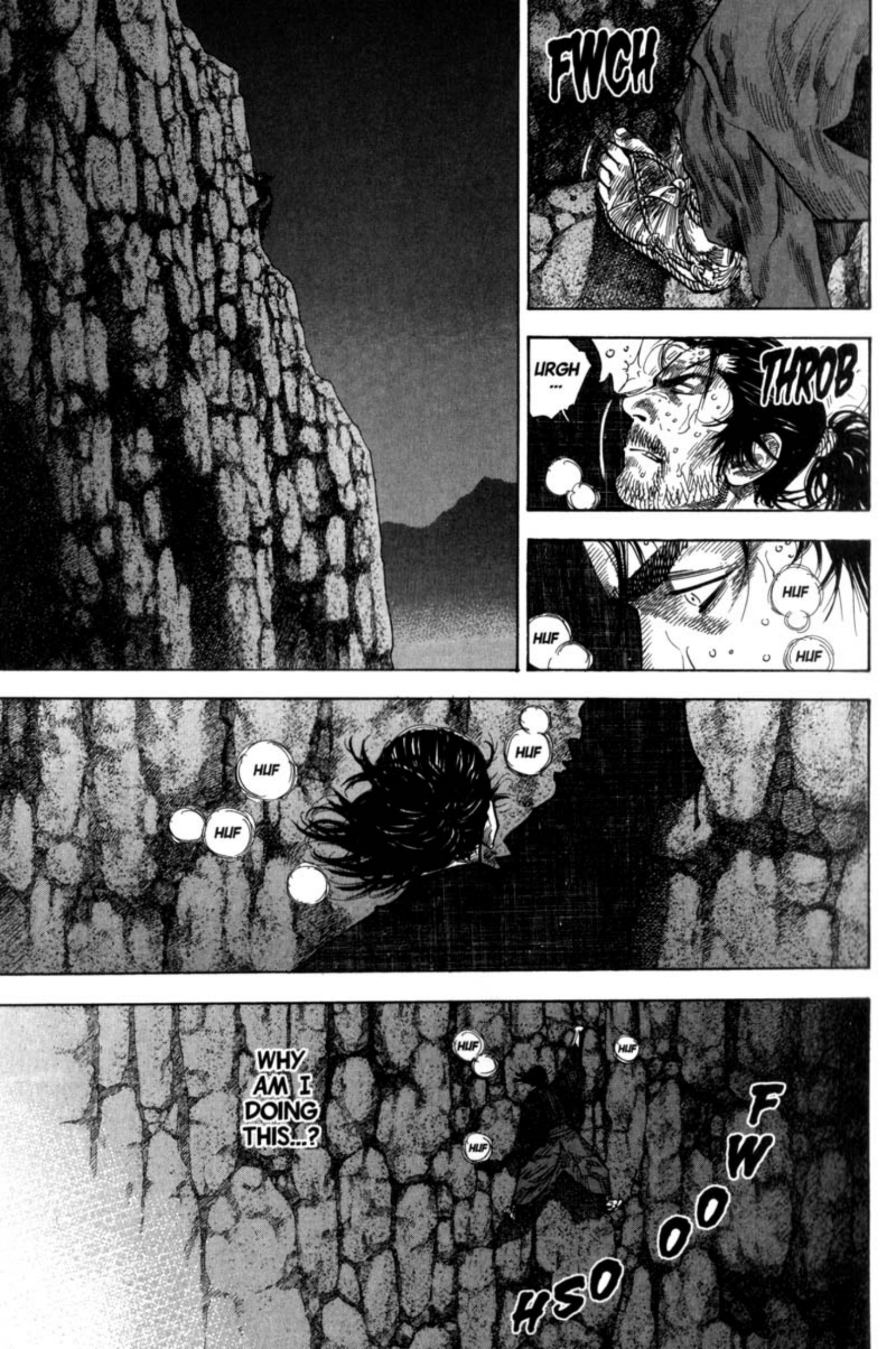
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, June 2004

*Viz*it www.viz.com, store.viz.com, www.pulp-mag.com,
www.animerica-mag.com.

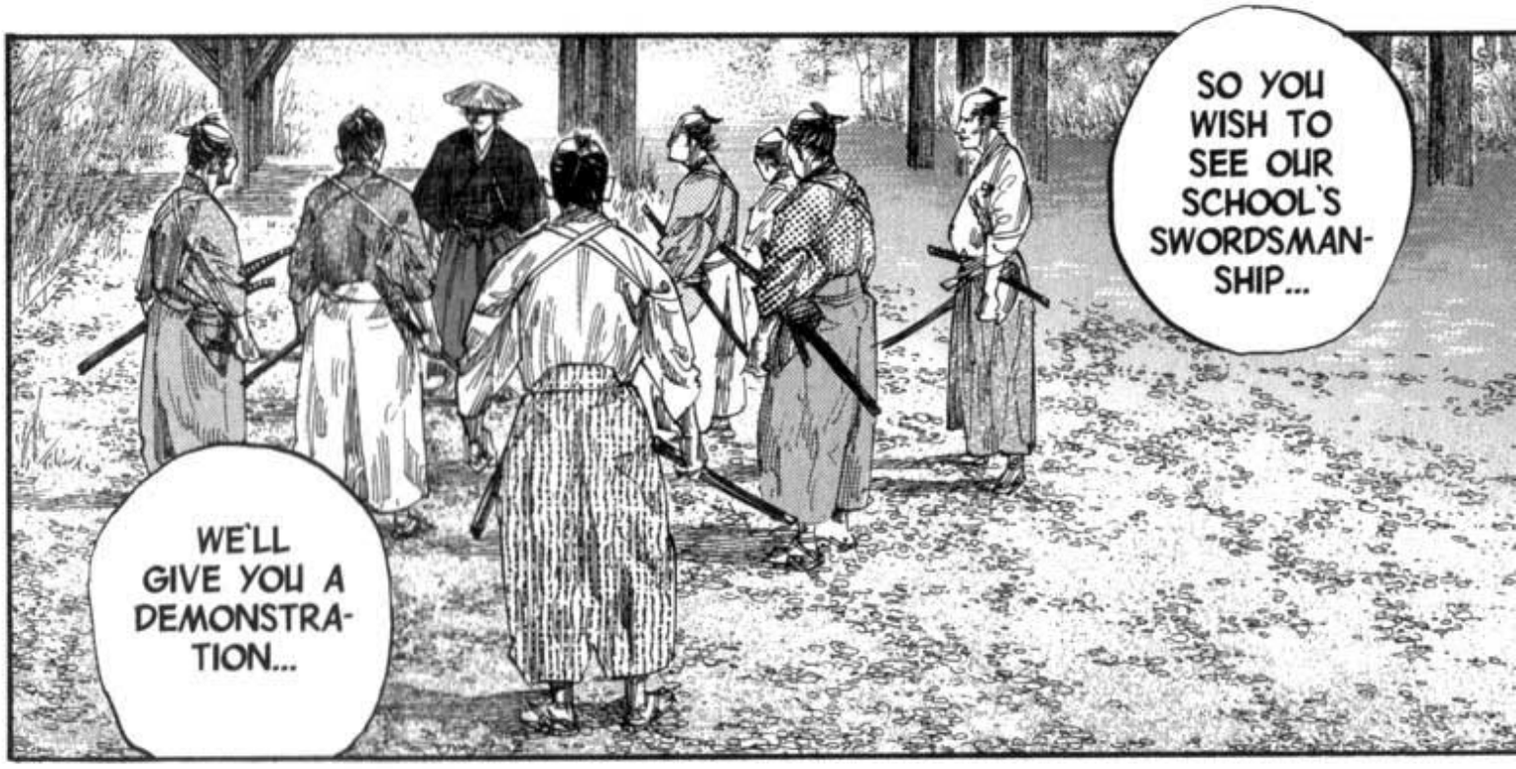
I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE SUMMIT.
IT JUST TOWERS OVER ME.
THROB
THROB
THROB

#108
Summit
FWOOOOOSH
Vagabond
vol. 12
Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue
Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa


SLP
!
FWOOOOSH


FWCH
URGH ...
THROB
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
WHY AM I DOING THIS...?
HUF
HUF
HUF
F
W
O
O
O
S
H

HMM...

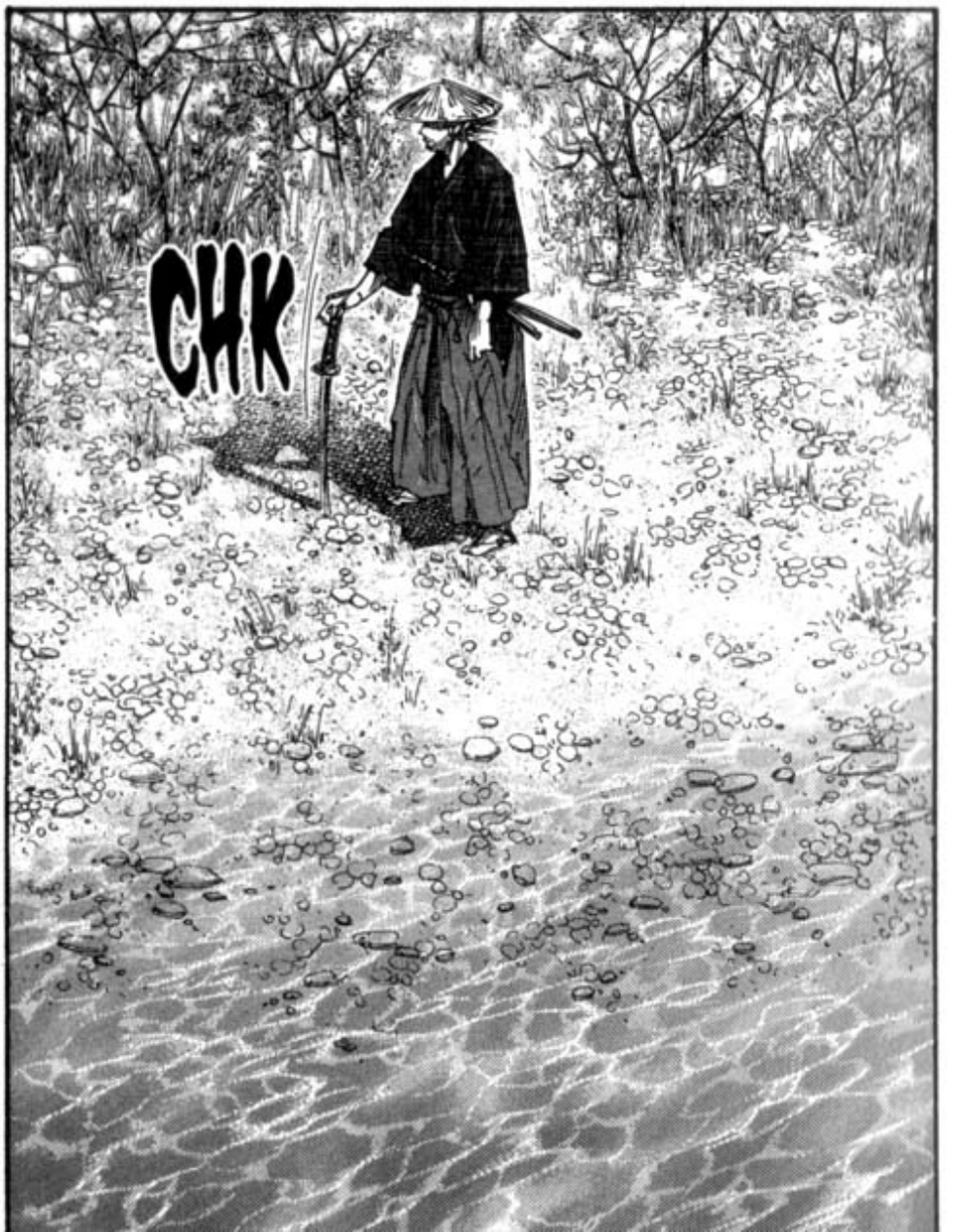

SO YOU WISH TO SEE OUR SCHOOL'S SWORDSMANSHIP...
WE'LL GIVE YOU A DEMONSTRATION...

...THAT'LL SEND YOU STRAIGHT TO HELL.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT A TASTE OF IT?

FWICH
YOU...
YOU IGNORANT FOOL!!

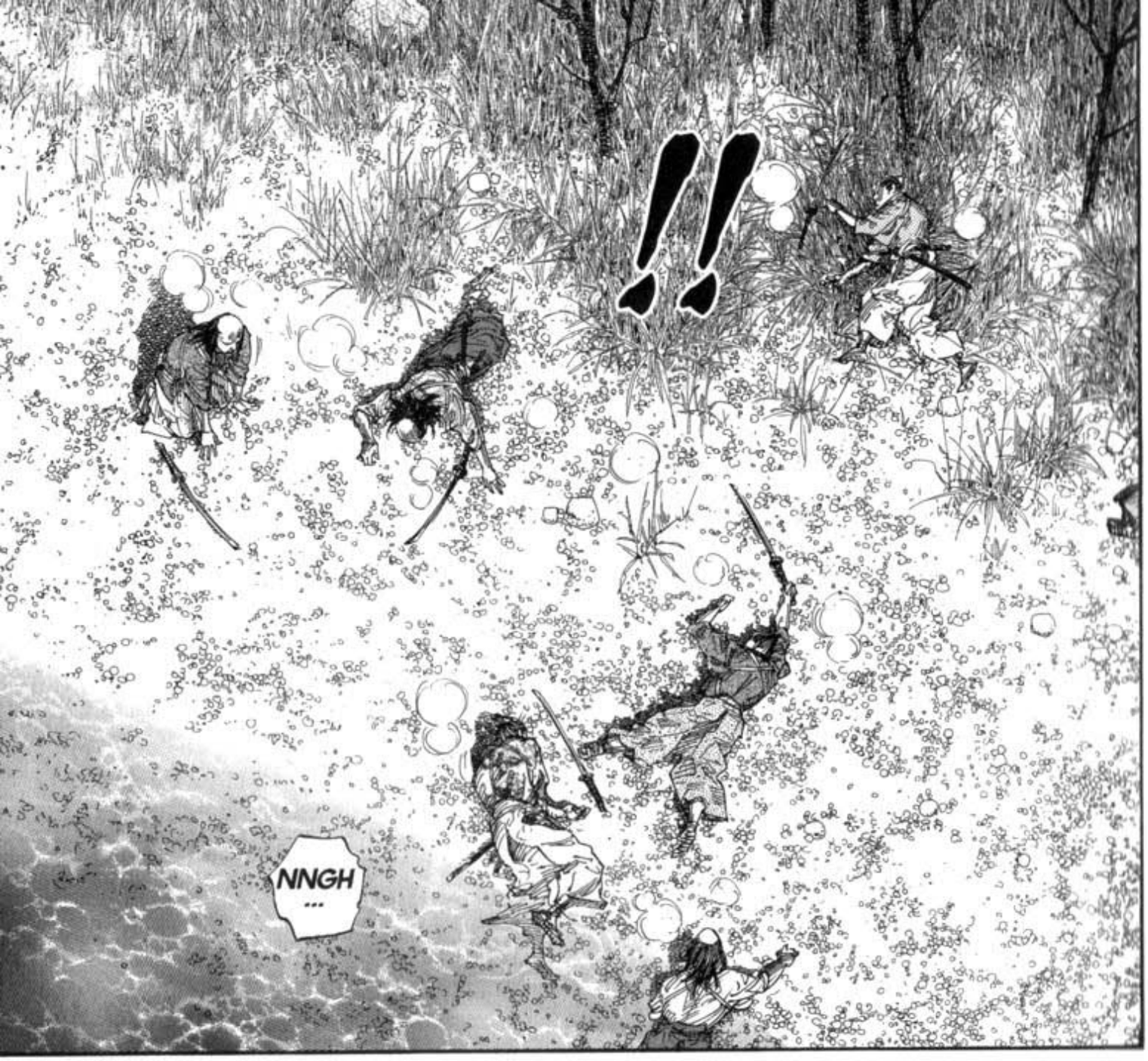
FSH

!?


CHK

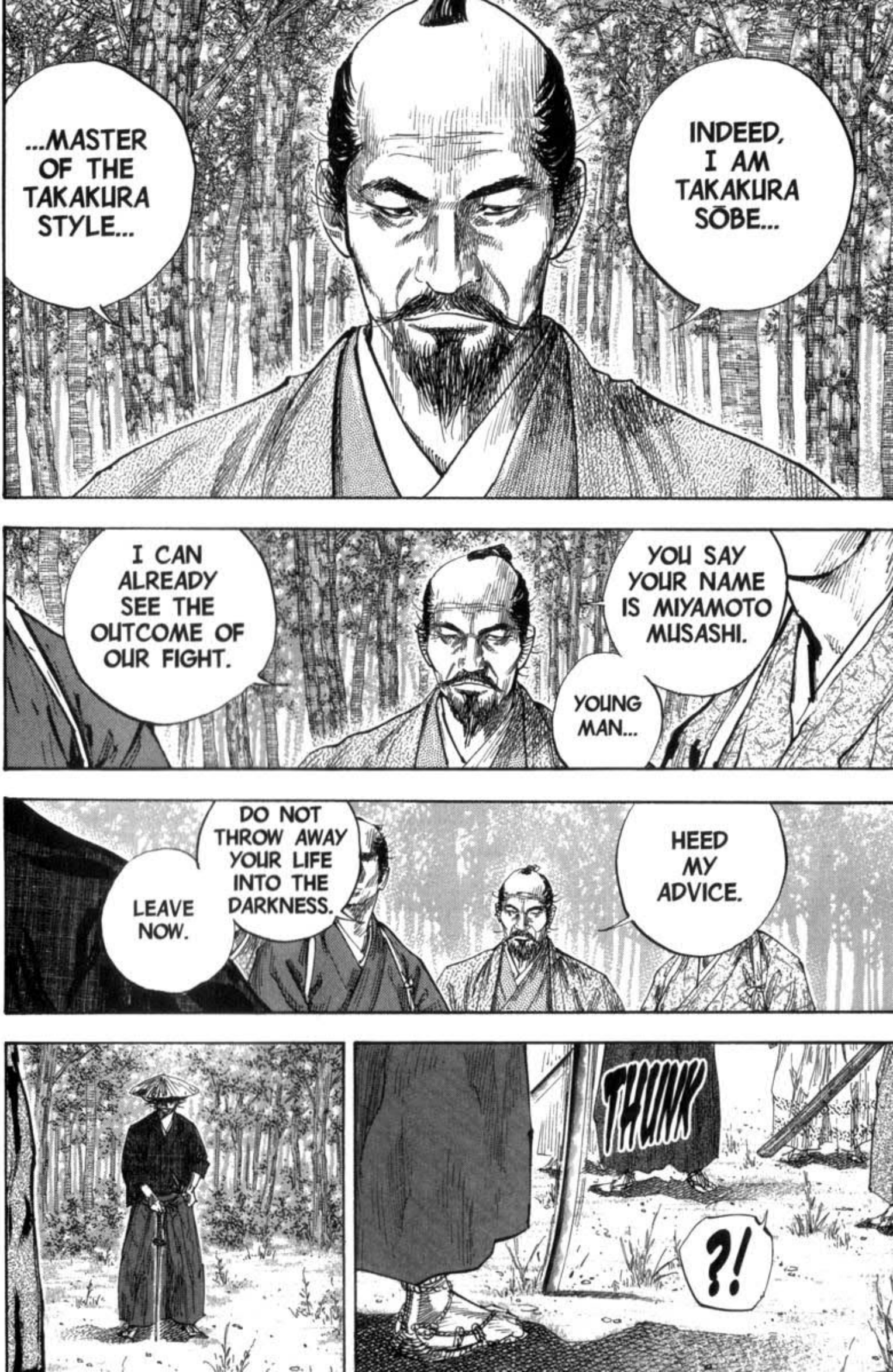
CHATTER
CHATTER
THAT YOUNG MAN'S GOING TO TAKE THEM ON WITH HIS SHEATH?!
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW GOOD HE IS. THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
AND HE'S OUTNUMBERED !!

FWICH
HE'LL BE KILLED!!

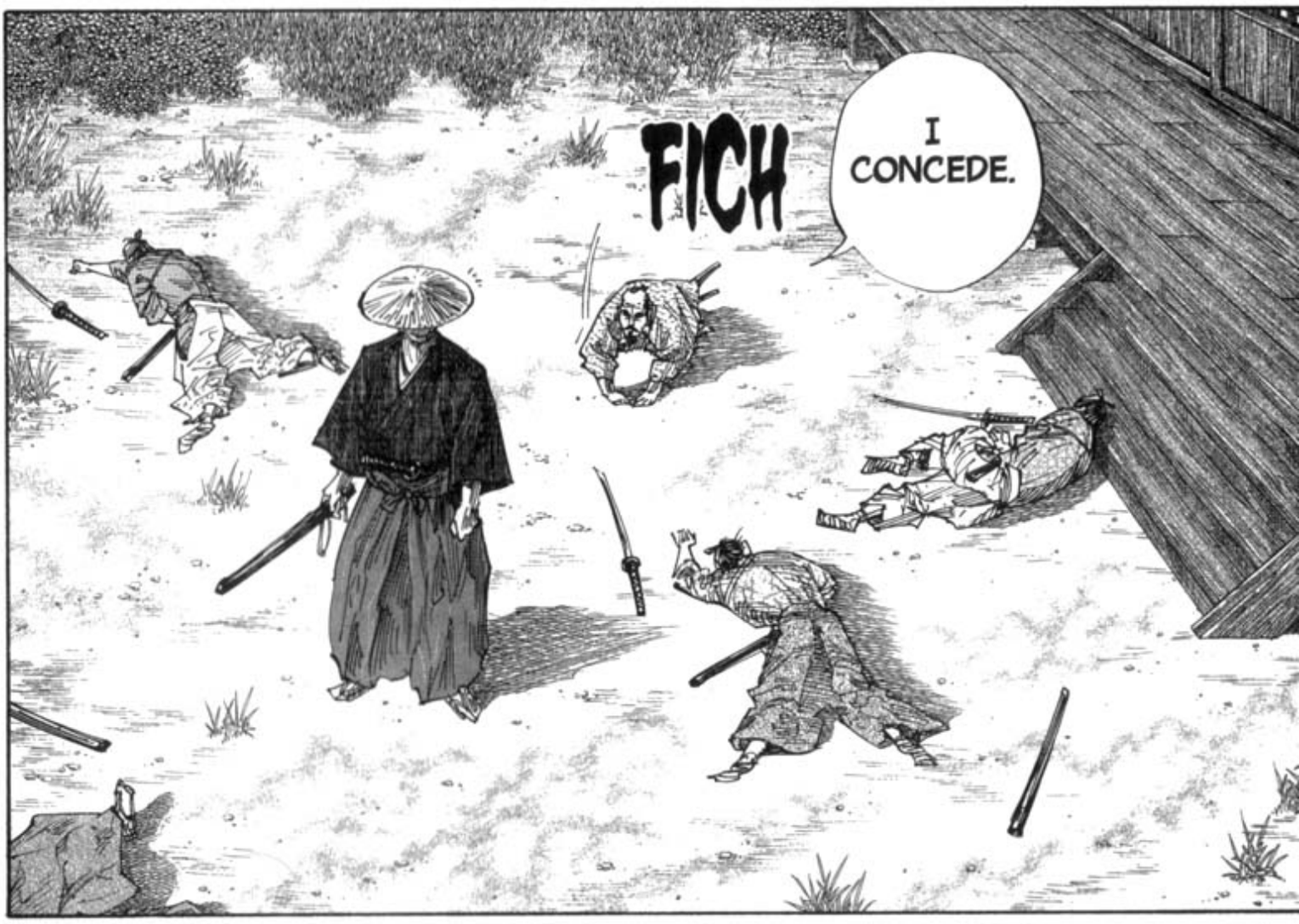

!!
NNGH
...

WHAT AN EXTRA-ORDINARY MAN...

HE BEAT THEM ALL... WITH HIS SHEATH...
SAID HIS NAME WAS MIYAMOTO MUSASHI...


...MASTER OF THE TAKAKURA STYLE...
INDEED, I AM TAKAKURA SŌBE...
I CAN ALREADY SEE THE OUTCOME OF OUR FIGHT.
YOU SAY YOUR NAME IS MIYAMOTO MUSASHI.
YOUNG MAN...
LEAVE NOW.
DO NOT THROW AWAY YOUR LIFE INTO THE DARKNESS.
HEED MY ADVICE.
THUNK
?!

FSH
WHAT?
WHP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
HMPH ...
YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT US WITH THAT SHEATH?!
HOW DARE YOU INSULT THE TAKAKURA STYLE!!
THAT'S IT!! WE'LL CRUSH THAT FOOLISH PRIDE OF YOURS!!


FICH
I CONCEDE.

無敵者

GASP!

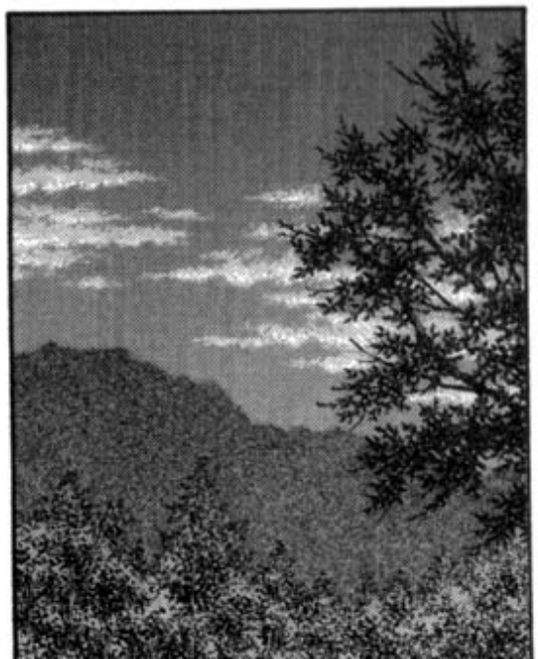
FSSH

KLANG

NO...
WE CON-CEDE.

YOU STILL WANT TO FIGHT?
...!!

FICH
ARGH!
FICH



HOW MANY REAL WARRIORS ARE THERE IN THIS WORLD?
THEY'RE ALL STYLE WITH NO SUBSTANCE.
SHUF
SHUF
SHUF
SHUNK
NGH...
URGH...
FICH

HUF
HUF
HUF
TUGG

PLIP
PLIP
THE SWELLING'S PRETTY BAD...

GRNCH
GRNCH
GRNCH

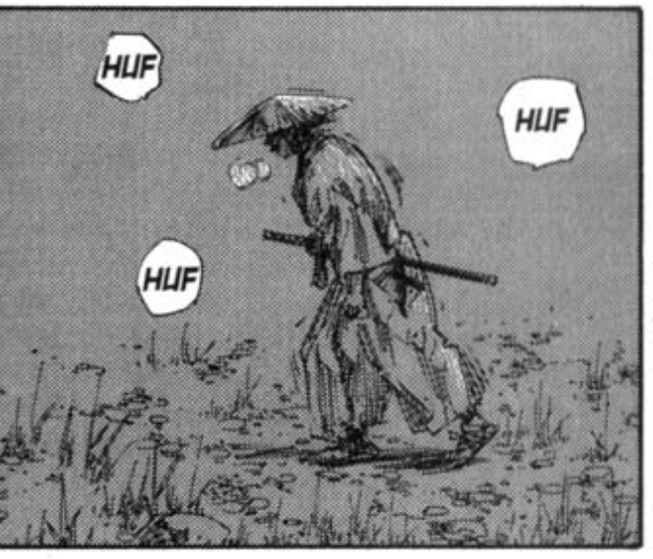
HUF
HUF
HUF
GRNCH
GRNCH

HOW FOOLISH!!
HOW FOOLISH...
HUF
HUF
HUF

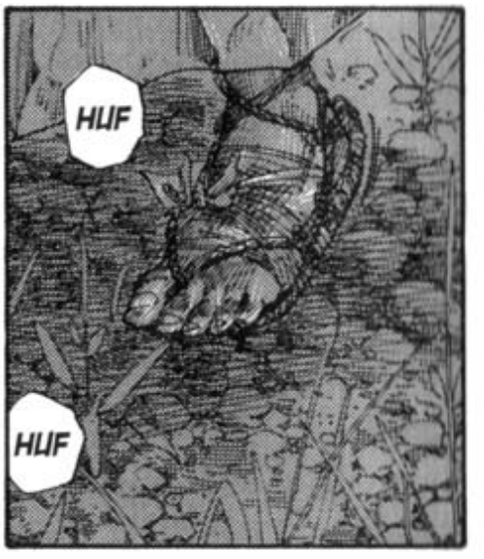
...I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO STUPID AS TO STOMP ON IT AND PIERCE MY FOOT.
NO, EVEN IF I HADN'T...

I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED IT.
THAT NAIL WAS JUST LYING THERE, STICKING UP...

IF I WERE IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF MYSELF, THAT NAIL WOULD HAVE NEVER PIERCED THROUGH MY SANDAL.
IF I HAD NOT BEEN SO DISTRACTED...


HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF


HUF
HUF

OF COURSE, NEITHER WOULD INEI.

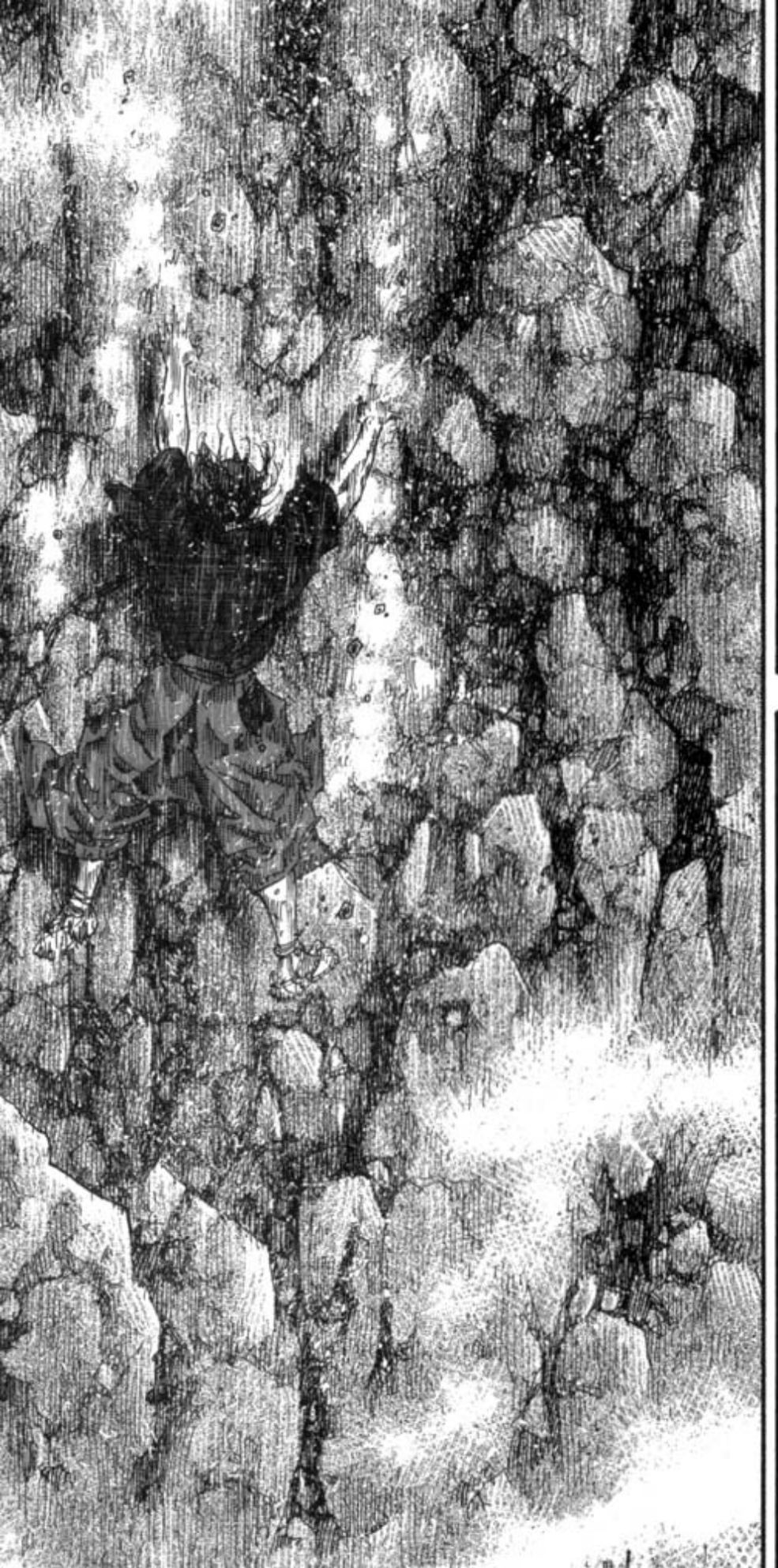
TAKUAN WOULDN'T HAVE INJURED HIS FOOT.

"THAT IS WHAT IT MEANS TO TRULY SEE."
"SEE EVERYTHING IN ITS ENTIRETY... EFFORTLESSLY."

NOR WOULD SEKISHŪSAI.
FWOOSH
HUF
HUF
HUF
DAMN IT.
I'LL REACH THAT PEAK NO MATTER WHAT!!
HUF
HUF
HUF

Vagabond

ZUZUN
(SLIDING
SOUND
EFFECT)



#109 Sea of Clouds

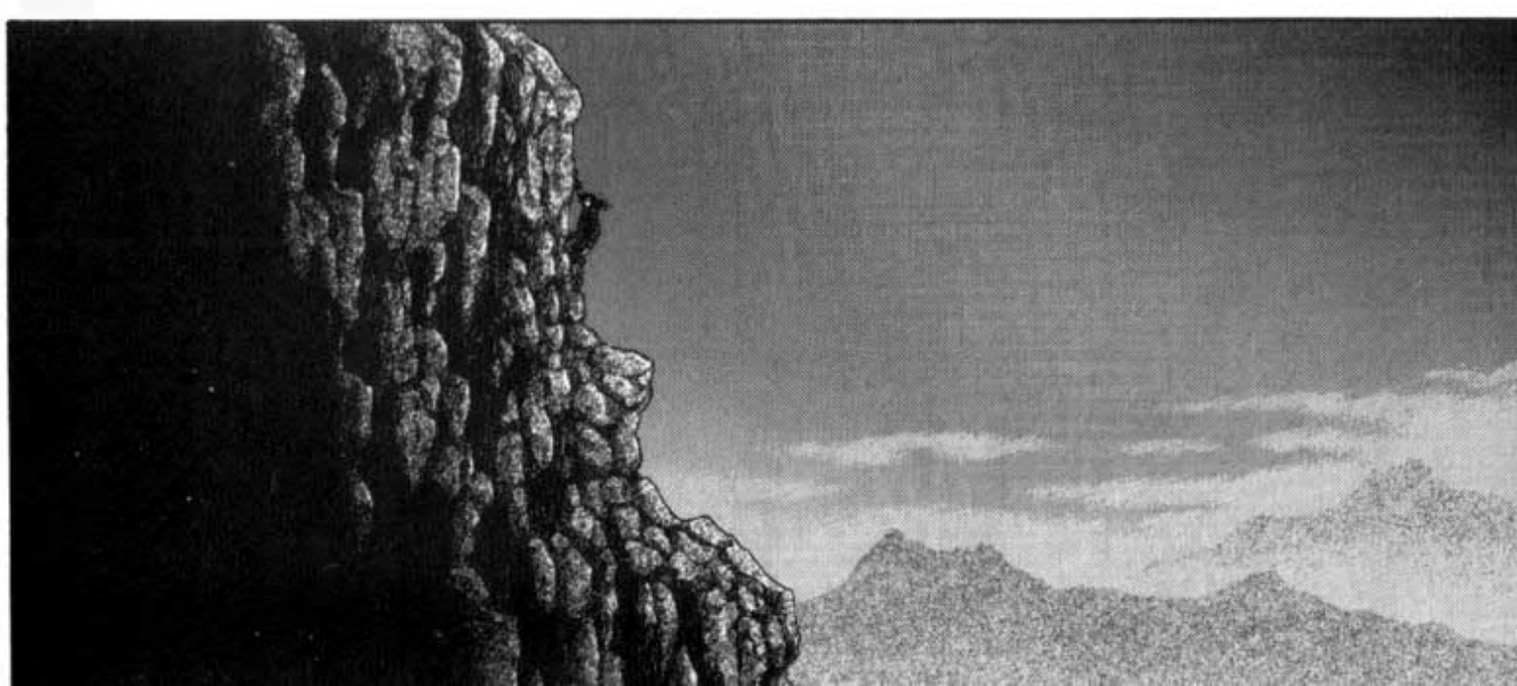
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

TUGG

!
KRAK

GRB



IF I'D DONE THAT ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE, I WOULD HAVE BEEN CRUSHED LIKE A FLY.
NO, I STEPPED ON THE NAIL. IT'S MY OWN FAULT.
THROB
ARGH ...
UNGH ...
FWP
IF--
THROB
THROB
DAMN! IF I HADN'T INJURED MY FOOT, THIS MOUNTAIN WOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
A FEW DAYS AFTER STEPPING ON THE NAIL, MUSASHI'S FOOT WAS SWOLLEN AND THROBBING WITH PAIN.
IF I HAD TO FIGHT YOSHIOKA DENSHICHIRŌ TODAY...
IF I HAD TO FIGHT SEIJŪRŌ...
...I WOULD LOSE...

INVINCIBLE...
NOT IN THE SHAPE I'M IN!
GRNCH
!!
SHF
FWOOOSH
WHY WASN'T I ABLE TO EVEN TAKE A SINGLE SWING AT SEKISHŪSAI?
WHY...
HM...
FWP FWP
FWO
OSH

HUF
HUF
HUF
"...IT'S MERELY A WORD."
"INVINCIBLE.."
BUT WHY ELSE DO I SEEK TO BE INVINCIBLE?
DID HE MEAN THAT I'M TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH THAT WORD?
I...ME... ME!..ME...
I WANT TO BECOME STRONGER.
WHEN I WAS A KID, I WANTED TO INTIMIDATE EVERYONE WHO DESPISED ME, EVERYONE WHO CALLED ME A DEMON CHILD.
MAYBE I HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL SINCE THEN. NO, I--
AM I AGGRANDIZING BECOMING INVINCIBLE?
"IT'S ALL ABOUT YOUR SELF."
HAH!

WHOOOSH
NNGH!

"IT'S ONLY ABOUT YOUR SELF."
"IS THAT ALL IT IS?"

HUF
FWP
HUF
HUF
HUF

WHOOOSH
ARGH!
NNGH!

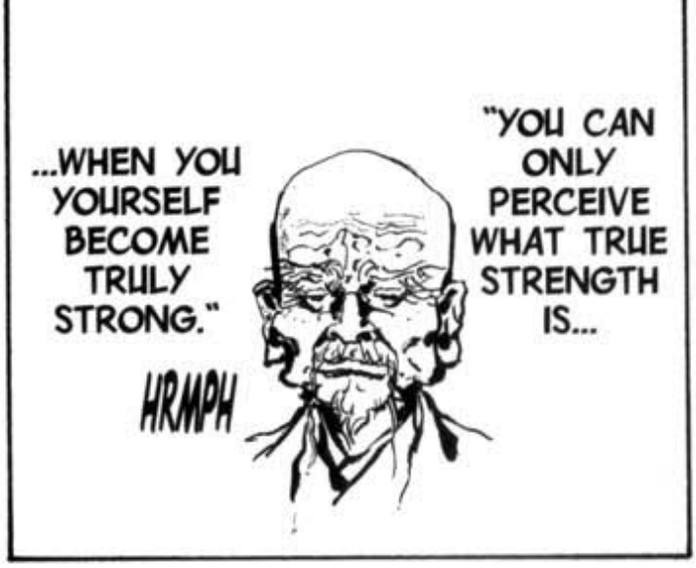
FWOOOOSH

"HOW TRIVIAL..."

FWP
FWP

FWOOSH

HUF
HUF
HUF


"YOU CAN ONLY PERCEIVE WHAT TRUE STRENGTH IS...
...WHEN YOU YOURSELF BECOME TRULY STRONG."
HRMPH

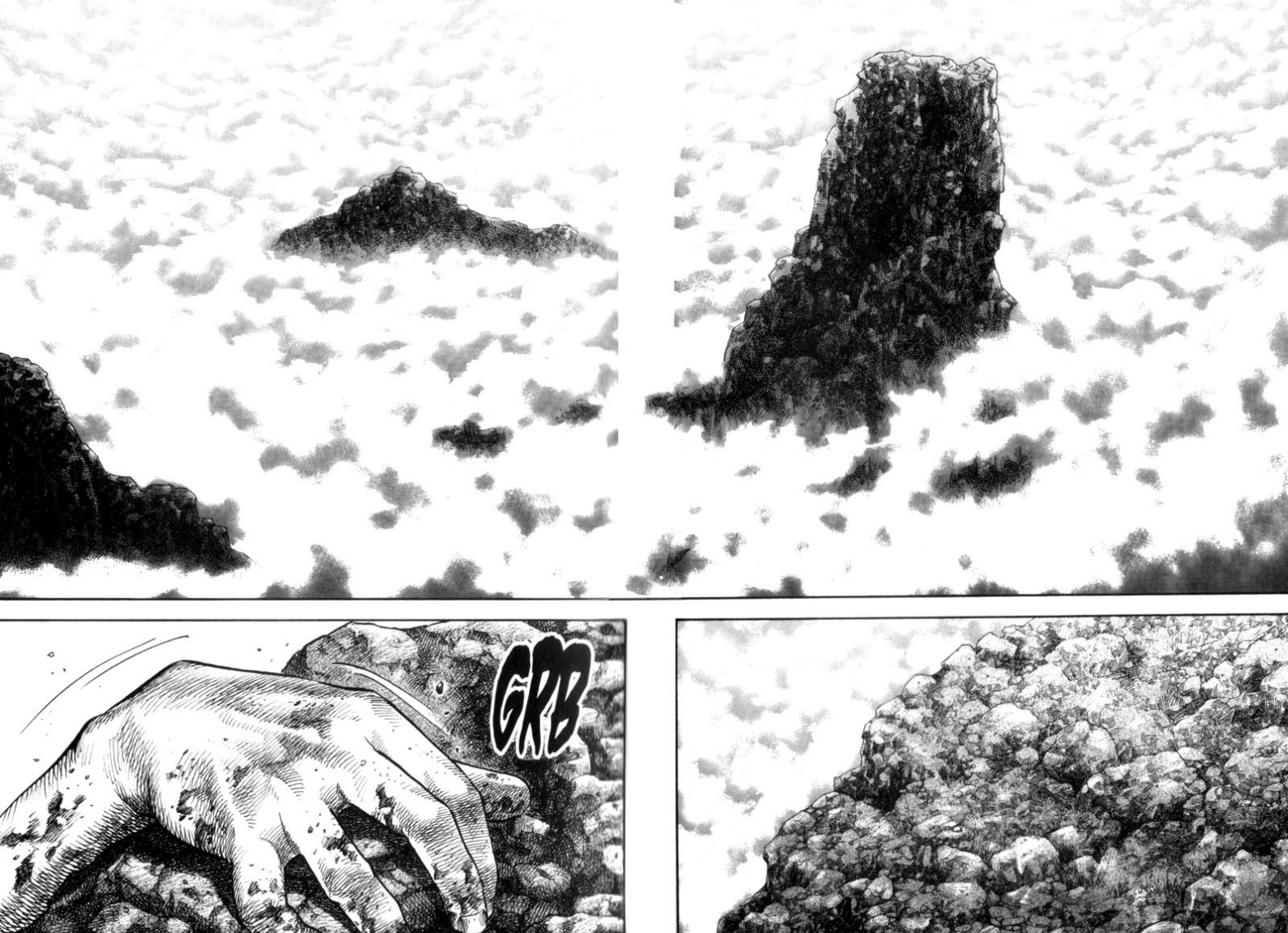
DON'T THINK.
YOU'VE THOUGHT ENOUGH ALREADY.

THAT'S RIGHT, OLD MAN.
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE INVINCIBLE ...
I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT...

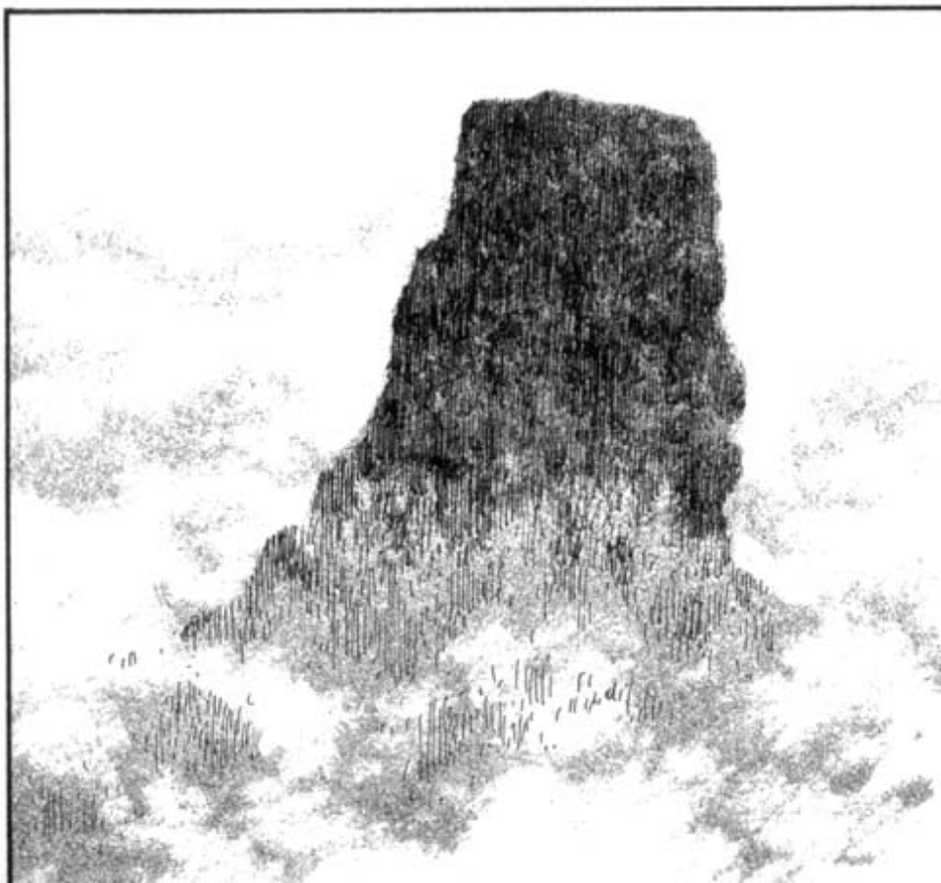
FOR NOW, I JUST MUST GET TO THE TOP.
GRIP

...ONCE I TRULY BECOME INVINCIBLE.

I JUST...
GRB
I JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT'S UP THERE.


GRB

KRICH



HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF

PLIP
PLIP
PLIP

I'M ON TOP...!!

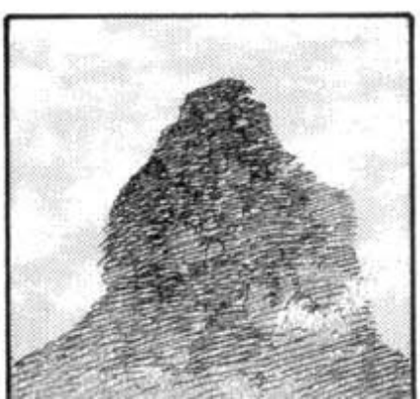
HAH!!

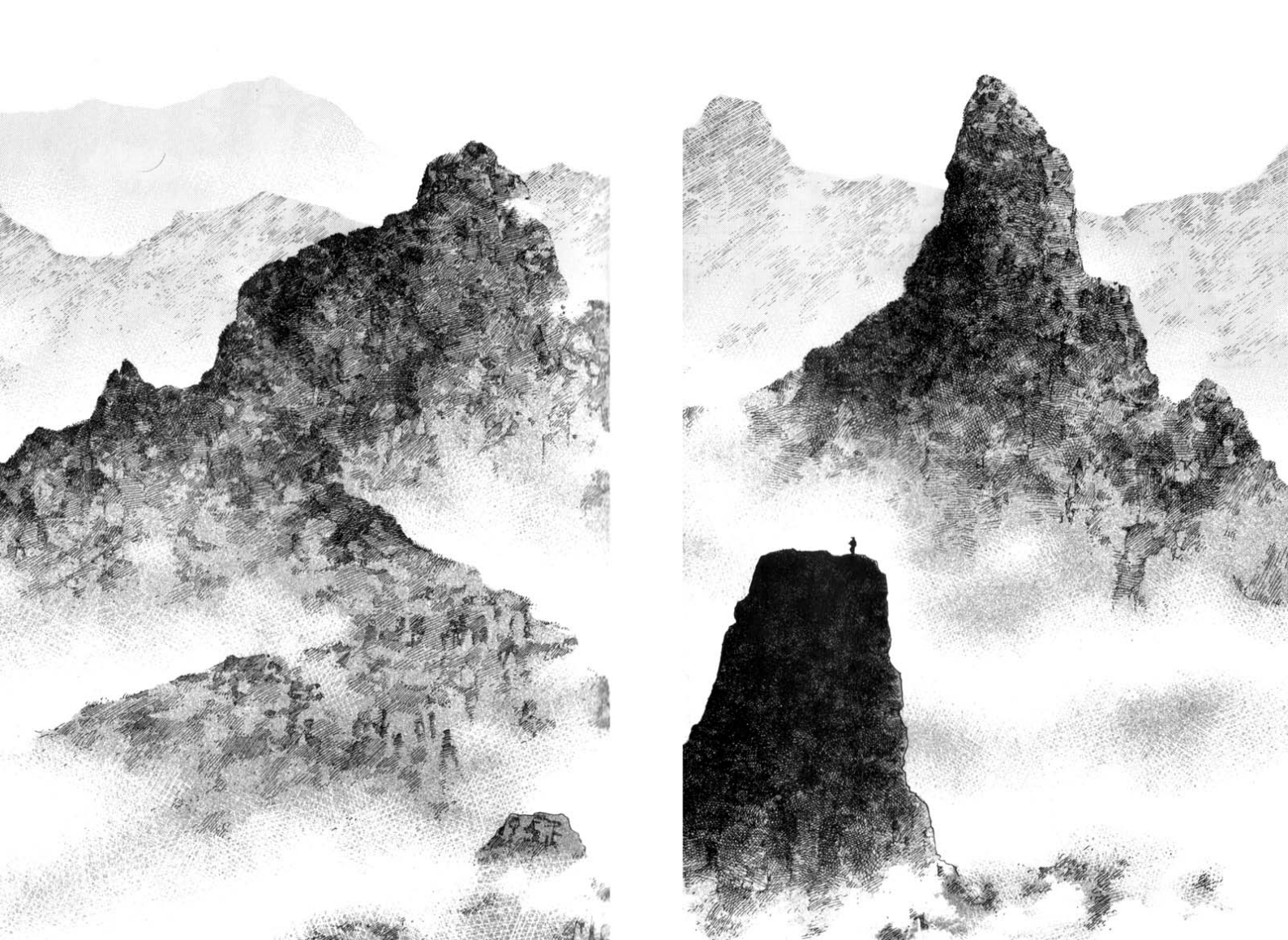
...HOW YOU TWO ARE DOING...
I WONDER...

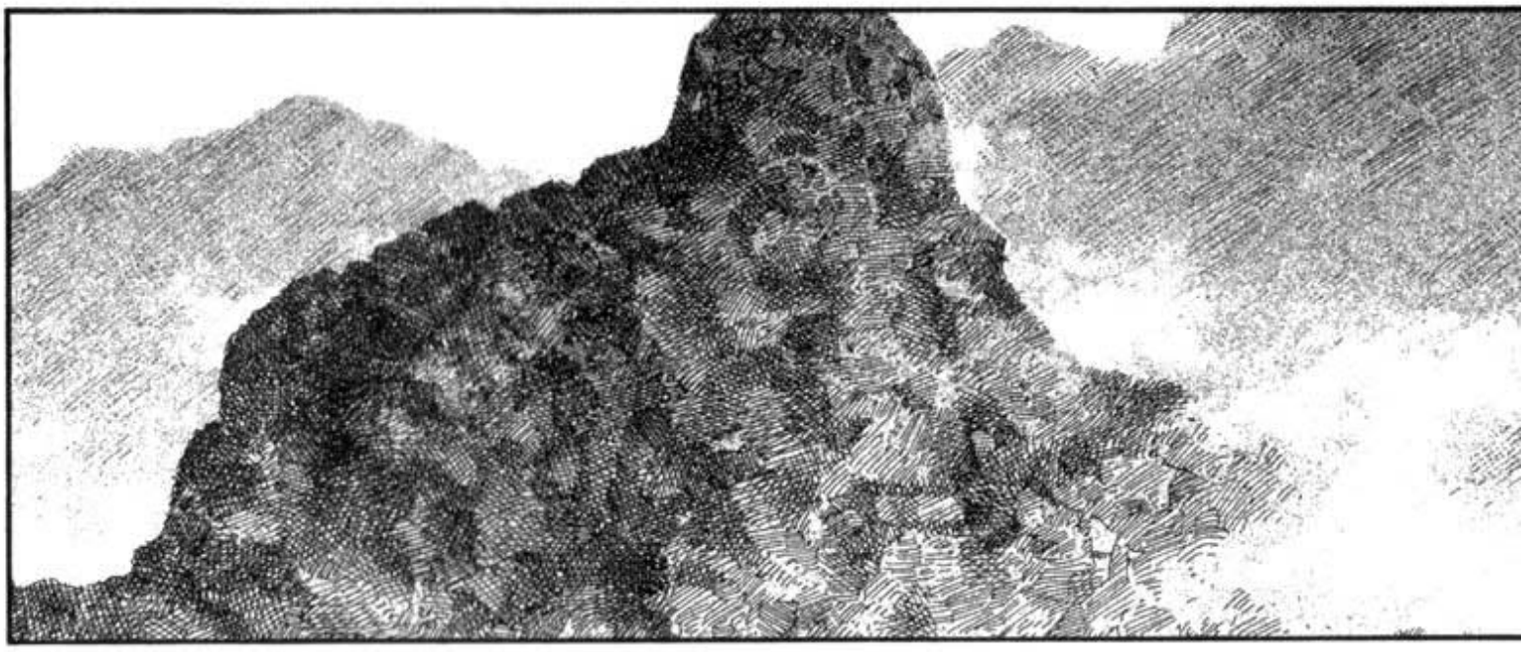
...

FWOOOOSH

.....







HEH HEH!
I SEE!!

HMPH!!

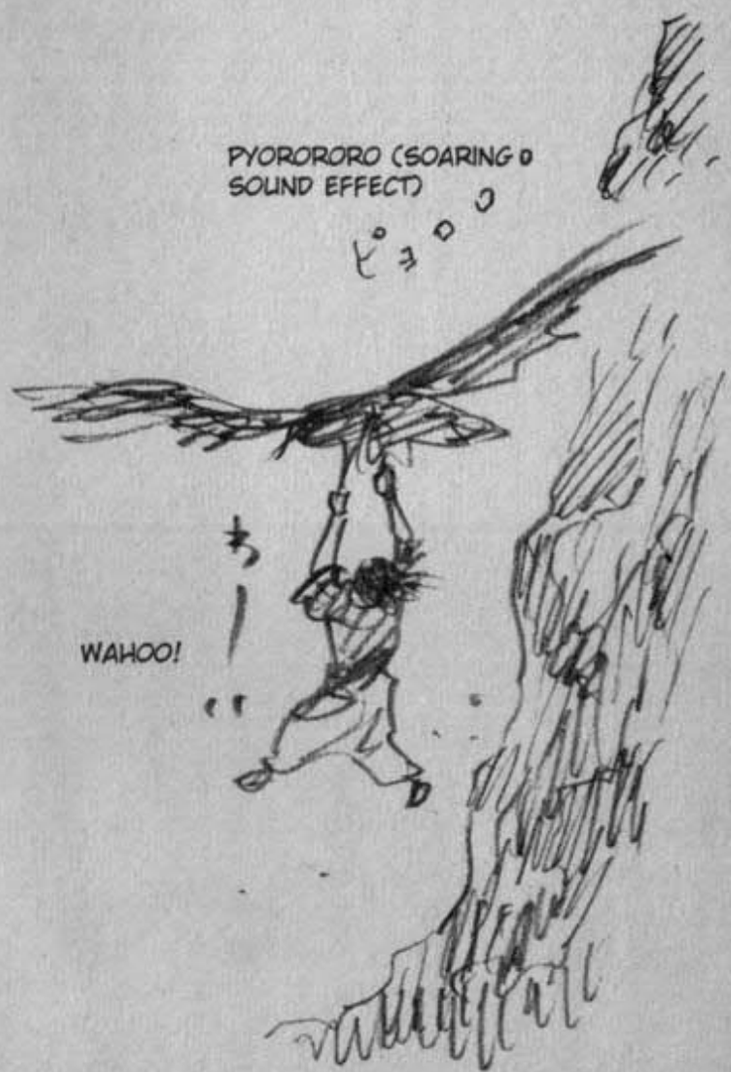
HA HA HA HA HA!!
ALL RIGHT THEN...
SO THIS IS WHERE I'M AT FOR NOW!!

AT THE START OF THE NEW YEAR I'M OFF TO KYOTO.
DENSHICHIRŌ, WHICH MOUNTAIN ARE YOU?
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, SEIJŪRŌ?

I CAN GO...

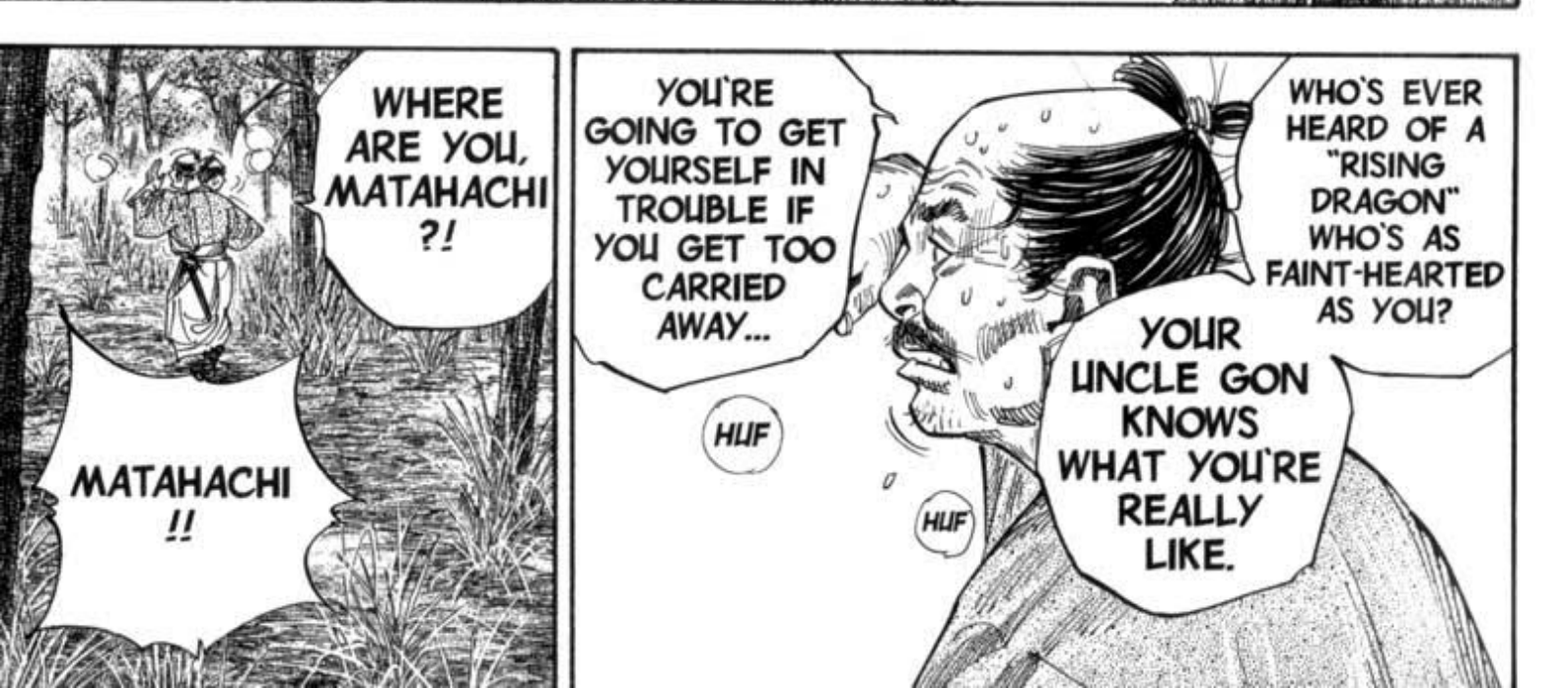
...AS FAR AS I WANT!!

Vagabond


PYORORORO (SOARING SOUND EFFECT)
ピョロロ
わー!!
WAHOO!

HUF
HUF
HUF
TP
TP
TP
WHERE'D YOU RUN OFF TO, MATAHACHI ?!

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL SINCE YOU WERE A KID.
YOU CAN CALL YOURSELF "KOJIRŌ," BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL ME.
HUF
HUF
HMPH! YOU ACT SO PROUD AND COCKY, BUT YOU RUN AWAY AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE...
WONDER WHO YOU TAKE AFTER...


WHERE ARE YOU, MATAHACHI ?!
MATAHACHI !!
YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOURSELF IN TROUBLE IF YOU GET TOO CARRIED AWAY...
HUF
HUF
WHO'S EVER HEARD OF A "RISING DRAGON" WHO'S AS FAINT-HEARTED AS YOU?
YOUR UNCLE GON KNOWS WHAT YOU'RE REALLY LIKE.

#110 Uncle Gon

MATA-
HACHI!!

.....
WHO ARE
THOSE
SAMURAI?

HEY!
FICH
FICH

TOO MUCH
SWAGGERING
AND
BOASTING.
I
KNEW THIS
WOULD
HAPPEN...
I
KNEW
IT!!

HOLD ON,
MATAHACHI.
I'M
COMING!!
FICH
FICH

IN THE
NAME OF
KANZEON
BOSATSU
!!

.....
KCHK

FICH
COME ON, DRAW YOUR SWORD!

HE MUST NOT BE FEELING WELL.
WE GOT LUCKY.
WHY WON'T HE DRAW HIS SWORD?
HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE STRONG.

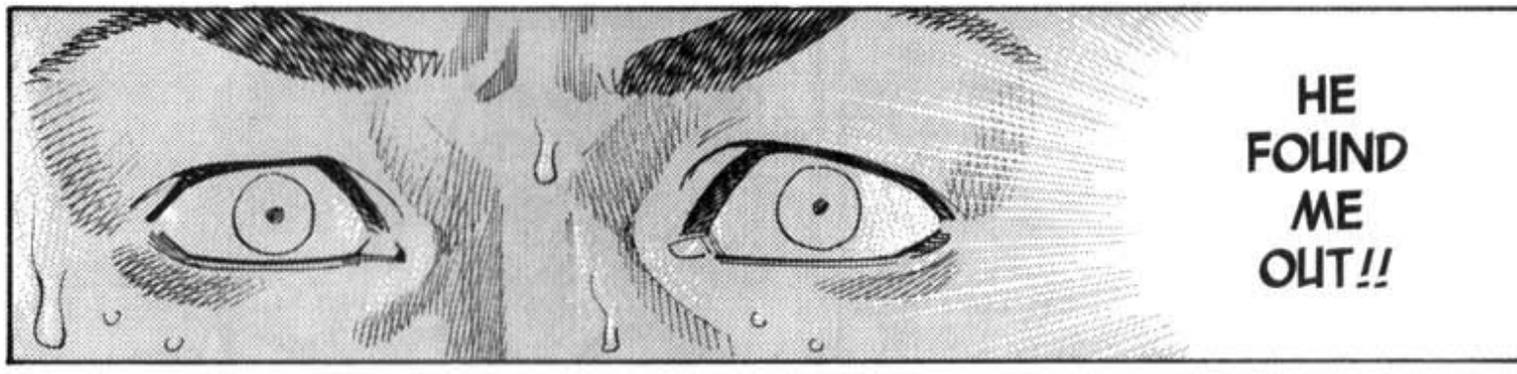
WHAT'S WRONG...
...SASAKI KOJIRŌ...?

GRANT US A DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR MOST FORMIDABLE SWORDSMANSHIP.

IMPOSTER ?

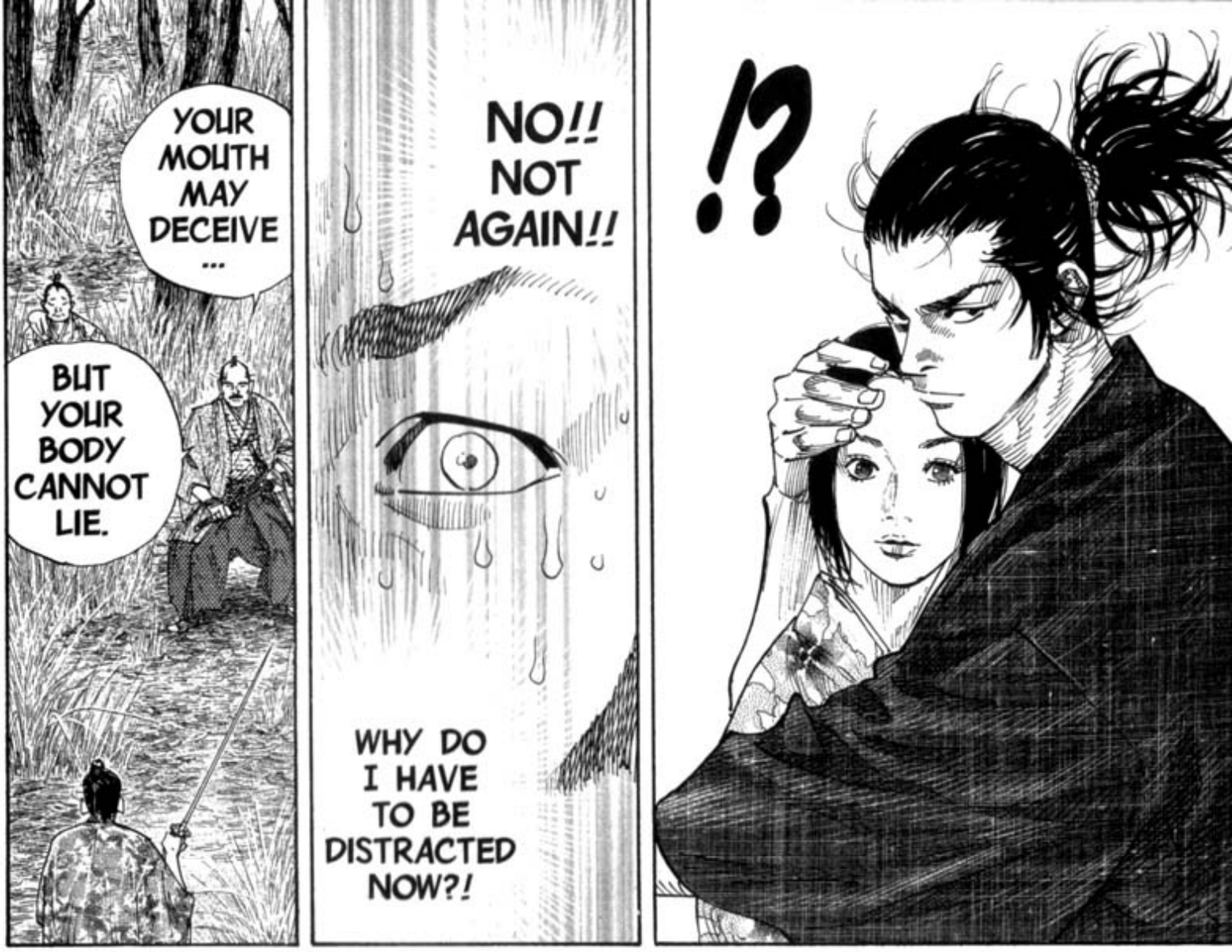
OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY...
KOJIRŌ THE IMPOSTER.

HE...
HE KNOWS!


HE FOUND ME OUT!!

!!
IF YOU WON'T DRAW, THEN I WILL.
ZHP

FWOOSH
THAT'S RIGHT, JUST REMEMBER TAKEZŌ!! JUST LIKE YOU DID BEFORE...
THIS GUY'S NOTHING COMPARED TO TAKEZŌ!!
I CUT DOWN AKAKABE YASOMA !!
I'LL KILL YOU!!


YOUR MOUTH MAY DECEIVE ...
BUT YOUR BODY CANNOT LIE.
NO!! NOT AGAIN!!
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE DISTRACTED NOW?!
!?

HUH, AN IMPOSTER?
CHAK
AND IT'S TELLING ME YOU'RE AN IMPOSTER.

BRR
BRR
BRR
DAMN IT!! NOT AGAIN!!

THE EXISTENCE OF A LOWLIFE LIKE YOU INSULTS US ALL.
YOU DESERVE TO DIE.
.....
YOU TRICKED US, YOU BASTARD!!
SLOW COW.
WAIT...
WHY AM I LAUGHING...?

YAHH!
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
ACK! WHAT'S HE DOING WITH THOSE CRAZY RECKLESS ATTACKS?!

FWOOSH
TMP
HM?
HMPH...
YOU BASTARD... YOU'RE NOT WORTHY OF THE TWO SWORDS YOU CARRY AT YOUR SIDE.
FICH
FICH
FICH

I WON'T LET YOU GET IN OUR WAY, OLD MAN.
FSH
UMF!!

TMP
STOP!
RUN, MATA-HACHI!

FWP
HEY!
ARE YOU HIS FRIEND?!

I MAY BE OLD, BUT I CAN STILL FIGHT!!
HOW DARE YOU?!

SHUNK
!!
ARGH!
HMF!
UMF!
NNGH!
TUGG
TUGG

FWAK

DAMN!
DAMN!
DAMN!
WHUD
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
TUGG
NNGH
...
TUGG
DAMN...
DAMN...
.....

EVEN WITH ALL YOUR FAULTS, YOU'RE STILL GRANNY'S ONLY SON...

DON'T DIE.

HER ONLY SON...

YOU MUSTN'T DIE.

MY SISTER'S ONLY SON...

HER ONLY...
...HOPE...

HUF
HUF
HUF
KOFF
HAK!!
MATAHACHI!
HUF
HUF
HMM...
WHERE ARE YOU?!

HOW THOUGHTFUL OF YOU, UNCLE GON.
YOU'VE SEEN TO IT SO I WON'T LOSE MY WAY!

GULP
GULP

THIS WAY!!
FICH

ALL RIGHT.
SHUF
SHUF
SHUF

HMM...

MATAHACHI!!
SHUF
MATAHACHI!!
SHUF

Vagabond

#114 Lowlife

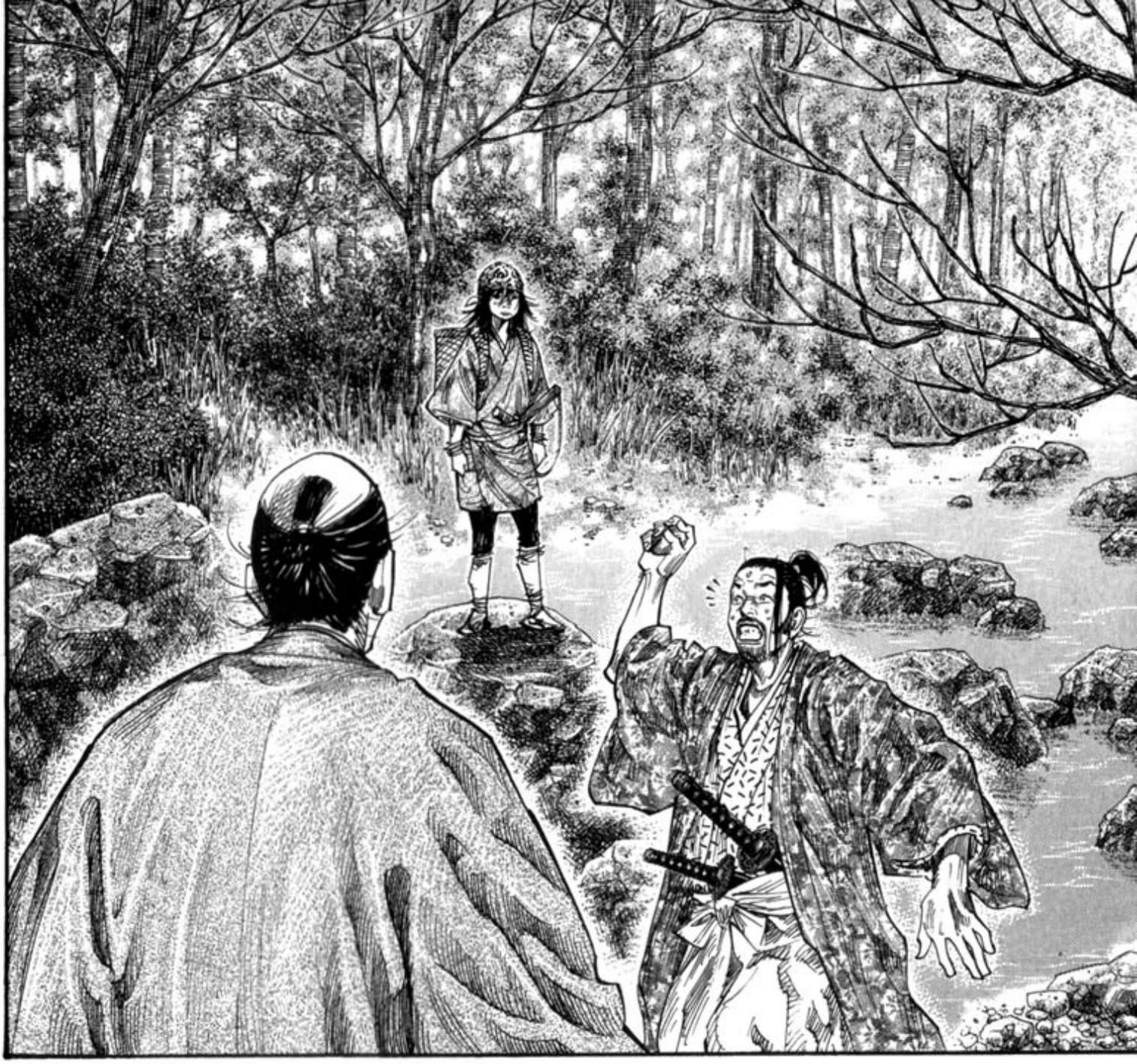
HUF
HUF
HUF
FSSHH
HUF

HUF
HUF
FSSH
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
HEY...
HUF
HUF

SHUT UP!!
A LOWLIFE LIKE YOU WHO USES THE NAME OF ANOTHER...
...CAN ONLY TAINT THE REPUTATION OF ALL WHO FOLLOW THE WAY OF THE SWORD!!
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO YOU?!
YOU CAN'T HOLD ANYTHING AGAINST ME!!

HUF
HUF
HUF

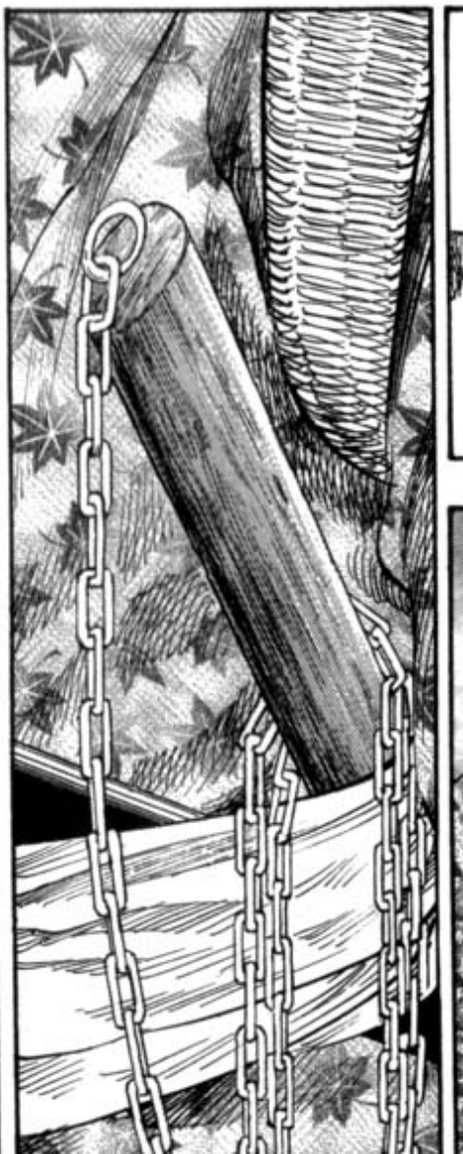
SWP
WHAT ELSE DO YOU HAVE TO SHOW FOR YOURSELF BESIDES YOUR BRUTE STRENGTH?
HMPH!
FWIP
SO DON'T BE SO SELF-RIGHTEOUS !!
YOU'RE JUST A WANDERING BUM TRYING TO MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF.
FICH
YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM ME!!
WHAT?! HOW DARE YOU...?
I HIT HIM!
GASP!!
!!
TAMUK
HUH?!
UGH ...



GASP!

DON'T MIND ME. GO ON WITH YOUR FIGHT. I WON'T GET IN YOUR WAY.

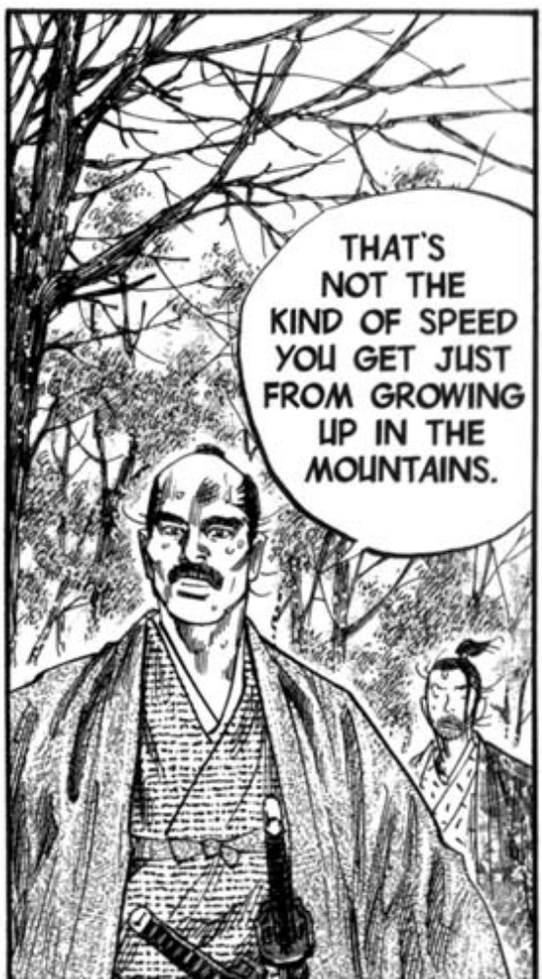
THE CHAIN AND SICKLE!!



.....

HMPH. SHE WAS JUST A KID.

TP
TP
TP
!!


THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF SPEED YOU GET JUST FROM GROWING UP IN THE MOUNTAINS.

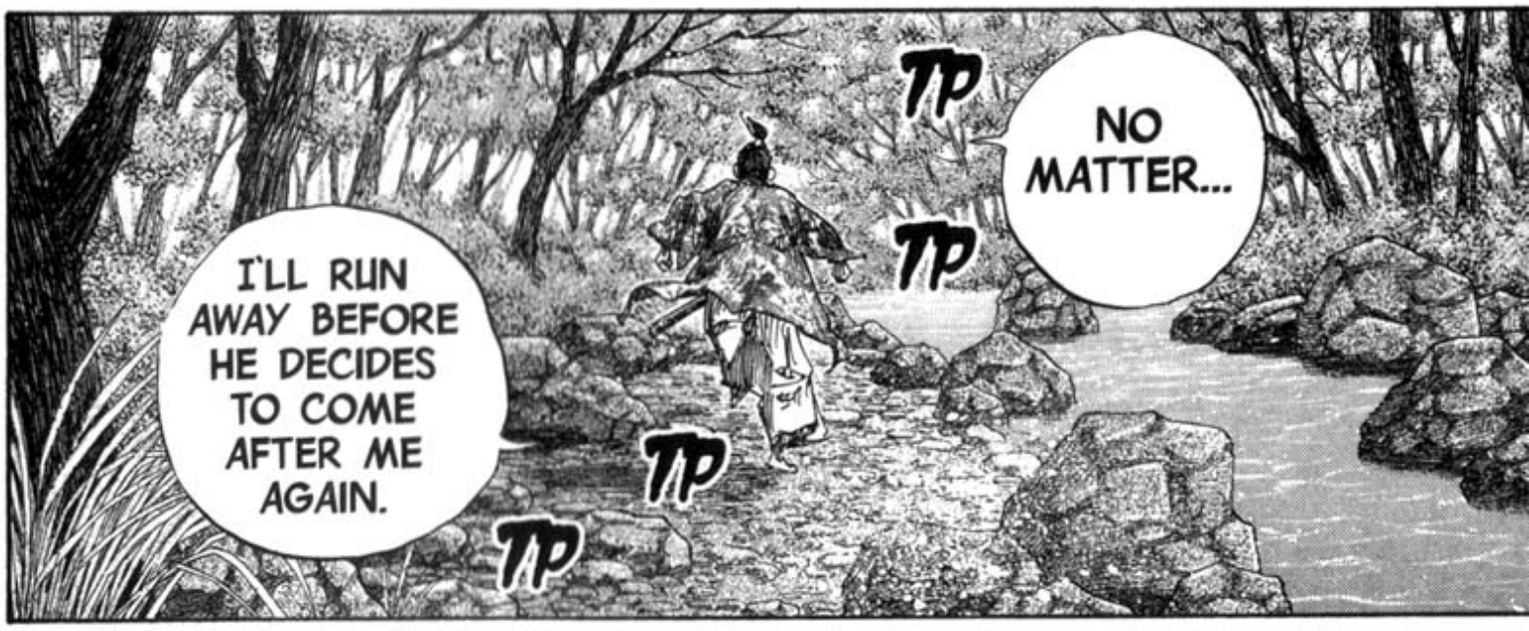
SHE WAS SO FAST...!!

HEY ...
SHE'S SO QUICK!!

!!
FICH FICH
HEY!
WAIT!

SHE HAD IT AT HER SIDE.
THE CHAIN AND SICKLE.
SHE OBVIOUSLY HAS SPECIAL TRAINING...
...IN MARTIAL ARTS...
HMPH! HOW CAN YOU TELL?
THE CHAIN AND SICKLE...
...?
WHY ELSE WOULD A GIRL HAVE SUCH A WEAPON?!
HEY, COME BACK!!
TMP
SHE MUST BE SHISHIDO BAIKEN'S DAUGHTER!!

SHISHIDO BAIKEN...
THAT MASTER OF THE CHAIN AND SICKLE...
A GENUINE MASTER...
WH...
WHAT'S THIS?


TP
TP
TP
TP
NO MATTER...
I'LL RUN AWAY BEFORE HE DECIDES TO COME AFTER ME AGAIN.

FWAP
FWAP
FIP
FWIK
HUF
HUF
.....

FWOOSH
HUF.
HUF.
PLEASE...
...PUT ME OUT OF MY MISERY...
.....

KAW
KAW
KAW
KAW
KAW
KAW
YOU... LOOK STRONG...
HUF ...
HUF
TELL ME...YOUR NAME...
HUF
HUF
I LEFT HOME...TO MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF WITH MY SWORD...
...PLEASE...
...ALLOW ME TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF SOMEONE STRONG...
...SO I WON'T BE ASHAMED... WHEN I SEE MY MOTHER IN THE OTHER WORLD...
...YOUR NAME...

SHISHIDO BAIKEN...

FWSSSH

HUF
HUF

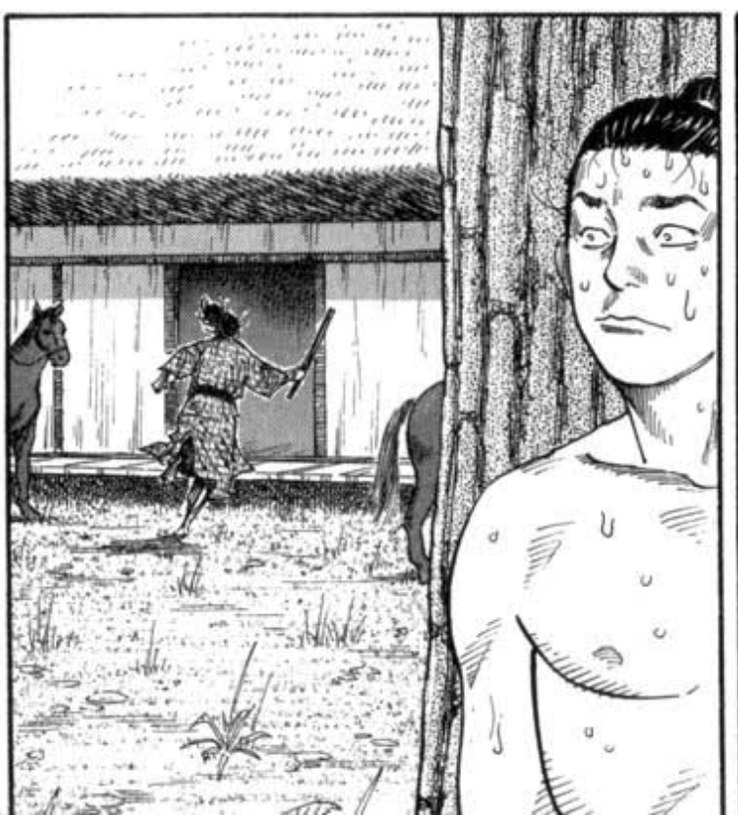
SO YOU'RE ...
HUF ...
I THOUGHT SO...

HUF
HUF
HUF

KAW
KAW
WHUP
"THE OTHER WORLD" DOES NOT EXIST.
SHUF

HUF
FSSHH
HUF
...!!
HUF
HUF
.....
KRK
...!!
KHUD

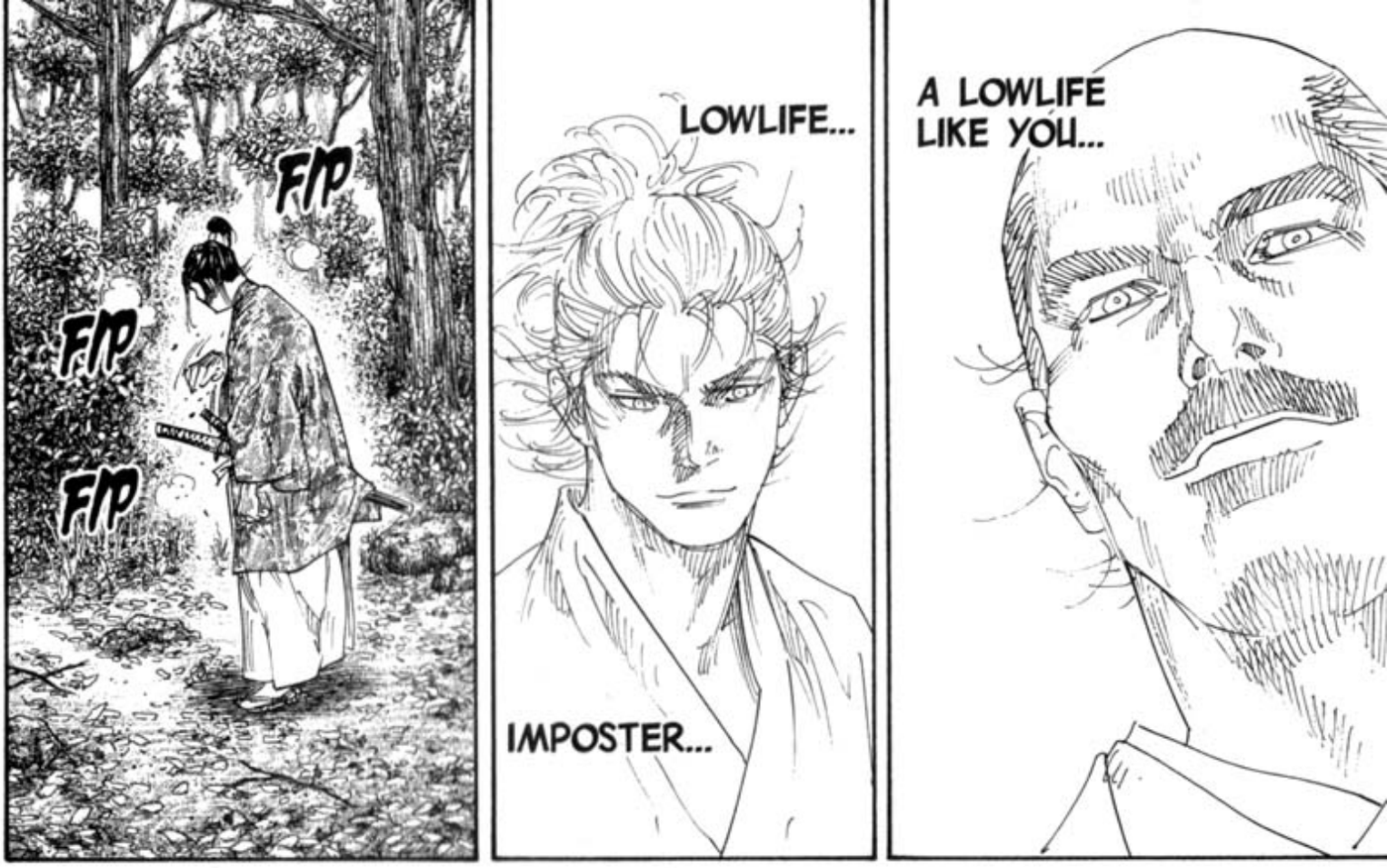
COWARD...



I ALWAYS RUN AWAY WHEN I'M IN TROUBLE.

THAT'S FINE. I'M ME...
AND YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE.

KRICH


FIP
FIP
FIP
LOWLIFE...
IMPOSTER...
A LOWLIFE LIKE YOU...

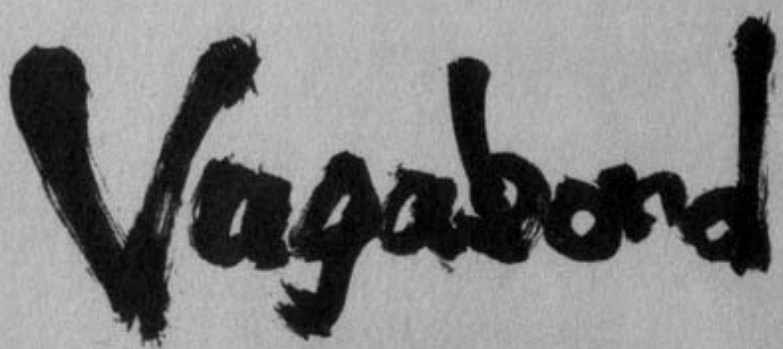
.....

HUF
HUF
HUF

CLINCH
I WON'T BE MADE A FOOL OF!!
FWICH
I'M NO DIFFERENT FROM YOU BASTARDS!!
WE'RE ALL RŌNIN, MEN WITHOUT POSTS...
...WANDERING THROUGHOUT THE LAND!!

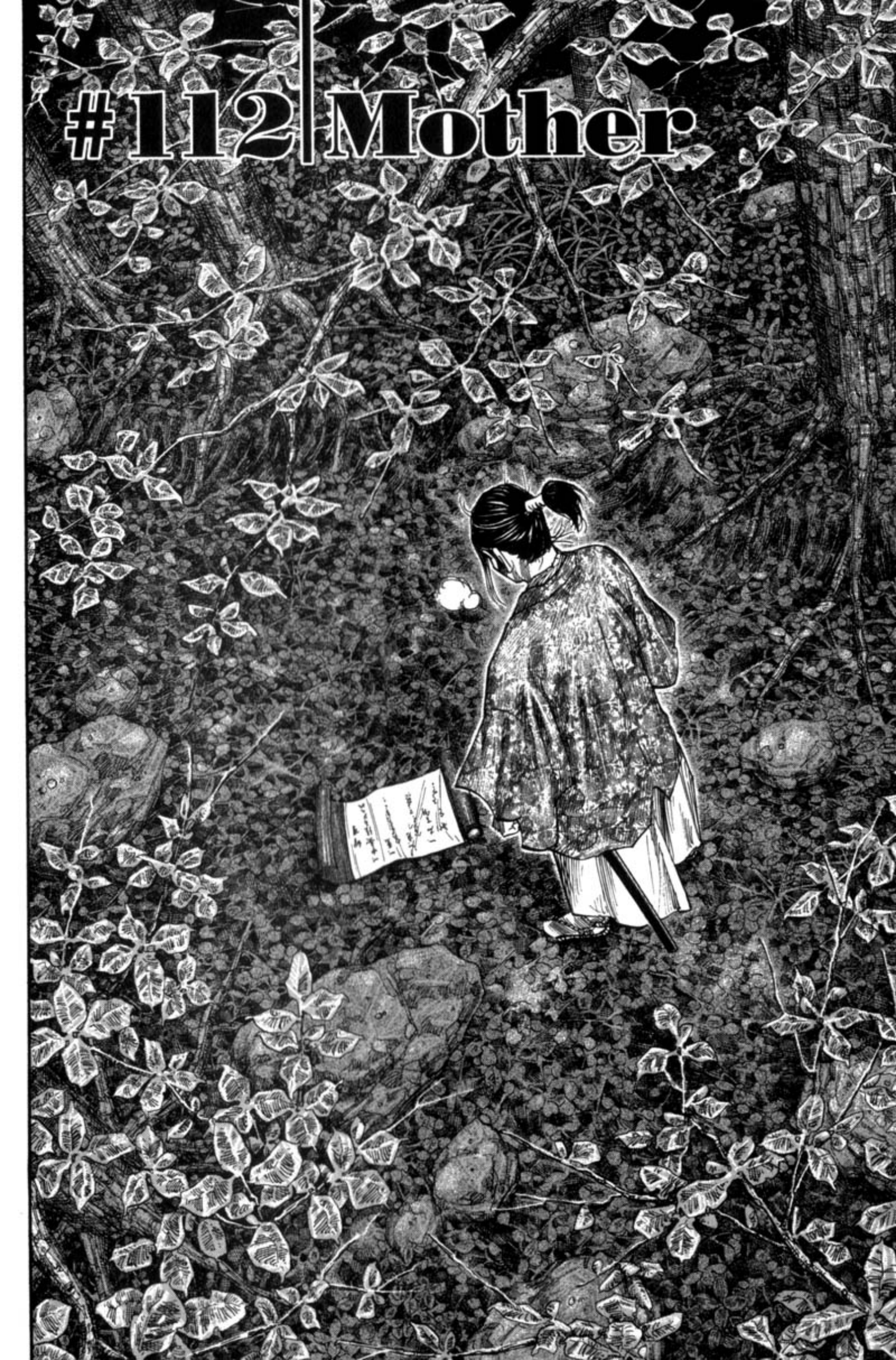
KRRL
WHUK

JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE, TAKEZŌ!!


Vagabond

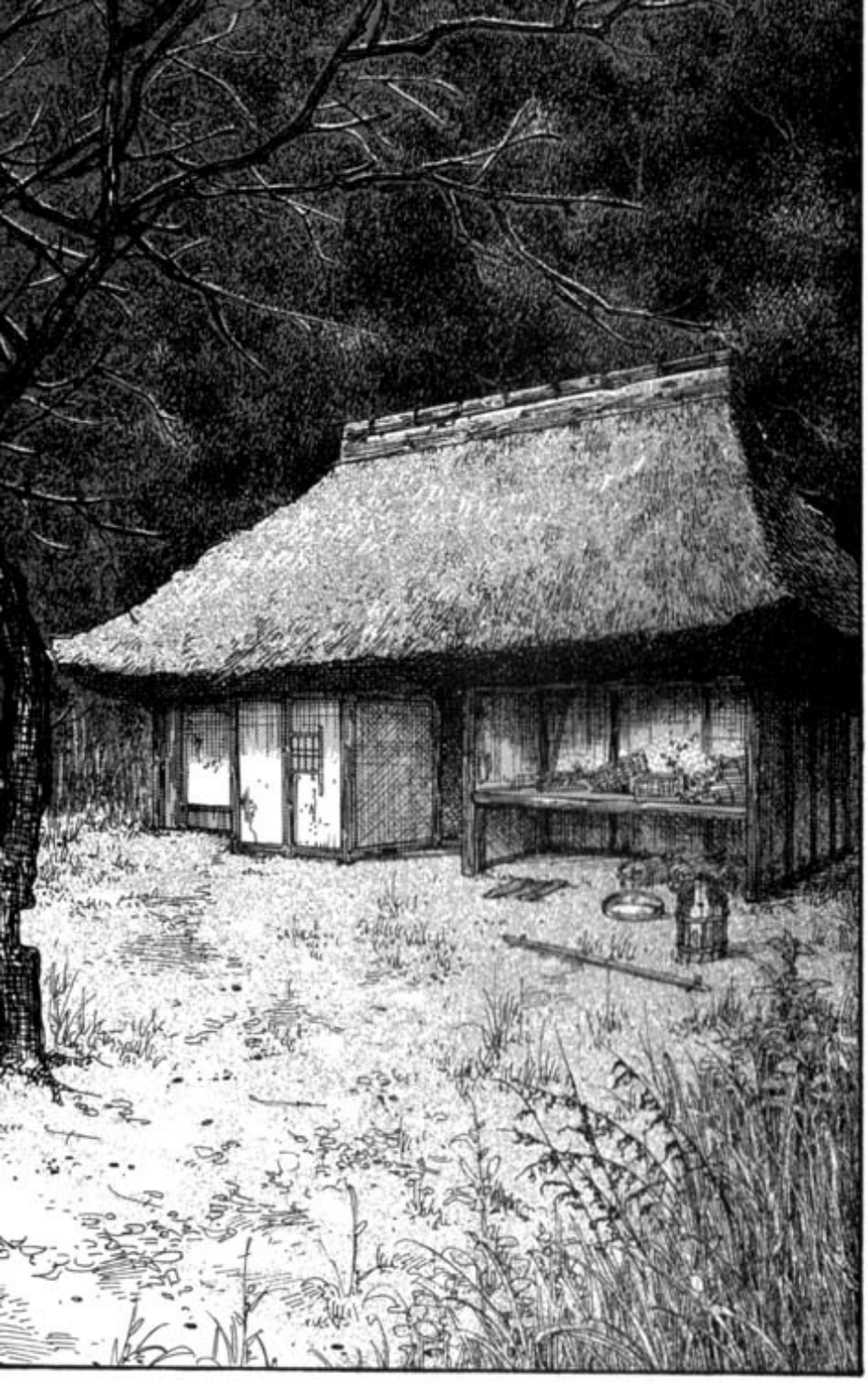
KUSARI & KAMA

WHUK
.....
FLP
印可
一中条流大刀之法
一表
電光、車、円流、浮きふね
一裏
金剛、亨上、無極
一右七剣
神文之上


#112 Mother

YOU JUST MADE A NAME FOR YOURSELF A BIT SOONER THAN ME, THAT'S ALL!!
TAKEZŌ!!
I'LL MAKE IT!!
I JUST NEED A CHANCE!!
YOU'LL SEE!!
FWSSSH

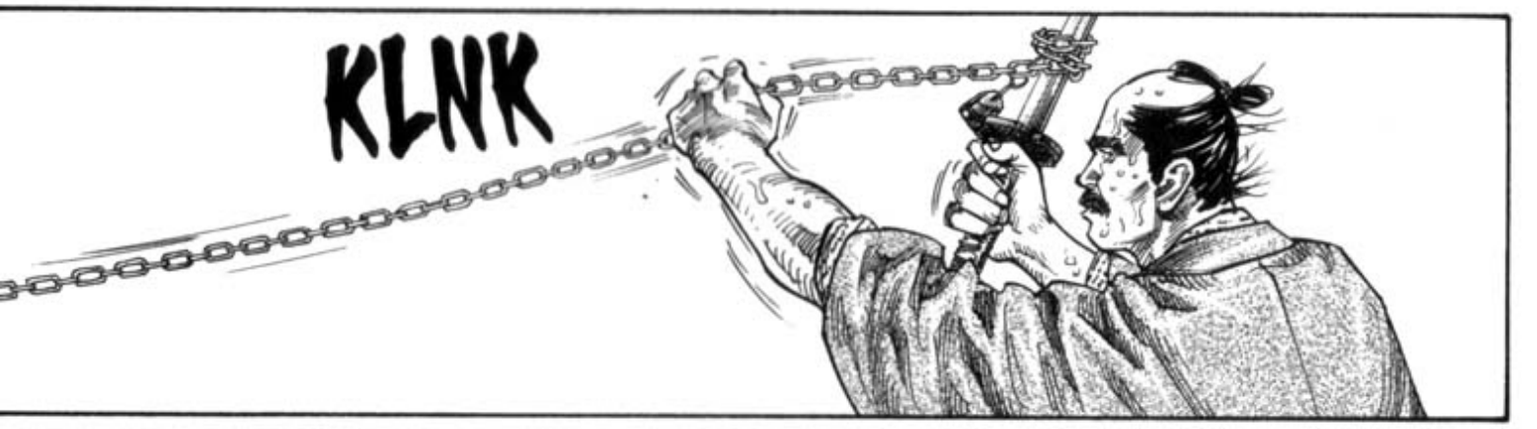
I MIGHT NEED THIS LATER...
HMM...
HUF.
HUF.
HUF.
FIP FIP
...JUST IN CASE...
TP
TP
TP
FWICH
I'LL CUT YOU DOWN!!
YOU'RE FIRST, KAI SHŌJIRŌ!!
SHF
SHF
SHF
SHF



KLNK
ZIPP!!

HUF
HUF
HUF

AMAZING !
SO THIS IS THE CHAIN AND SICKLE!!


KLNK

TUGG

GRP

FWP

HMPH!!
KCHK
!!

BUT IN TERMS OF TECHNIQUE ...
YOU DEFEATED ME!

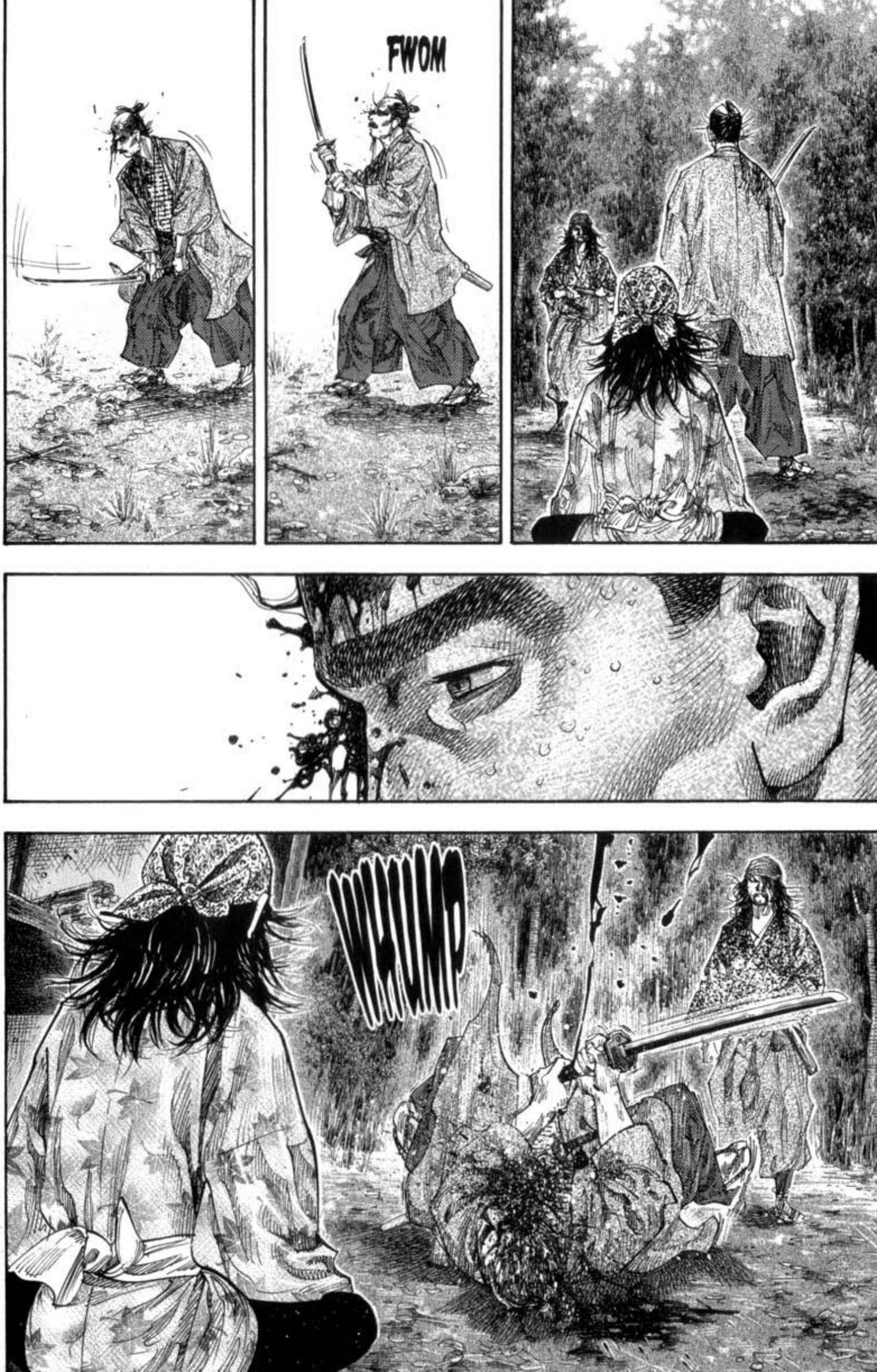
WHUD

I HAVE STRENGTH !!

...YOU WERE SHISHIDO BAIKEN!!
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT...
!!
FWOOSH

SHISHIDO BAIKEN!!
FWP
GOOD THING I HAD A CHANCE TO WITNESS THIS TECHNIQUE!!
WHSH
WHSH
WHSH
BRR
BRR

WOOSH
FWSH
FWSH
?!

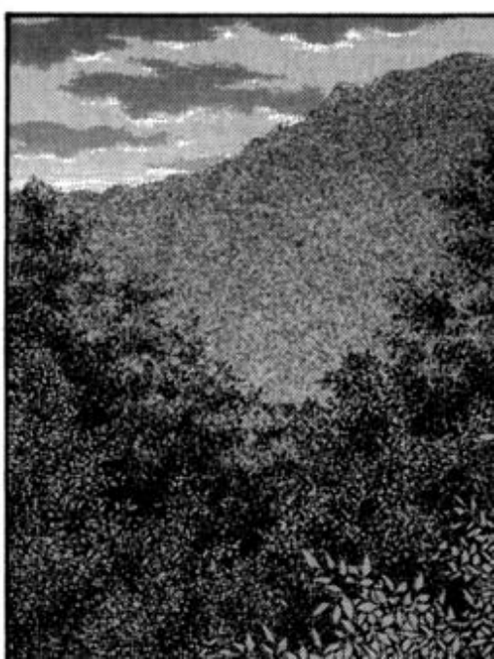

FWOM
KRAUNCH

GASP!
HUH?
AHA!
!!

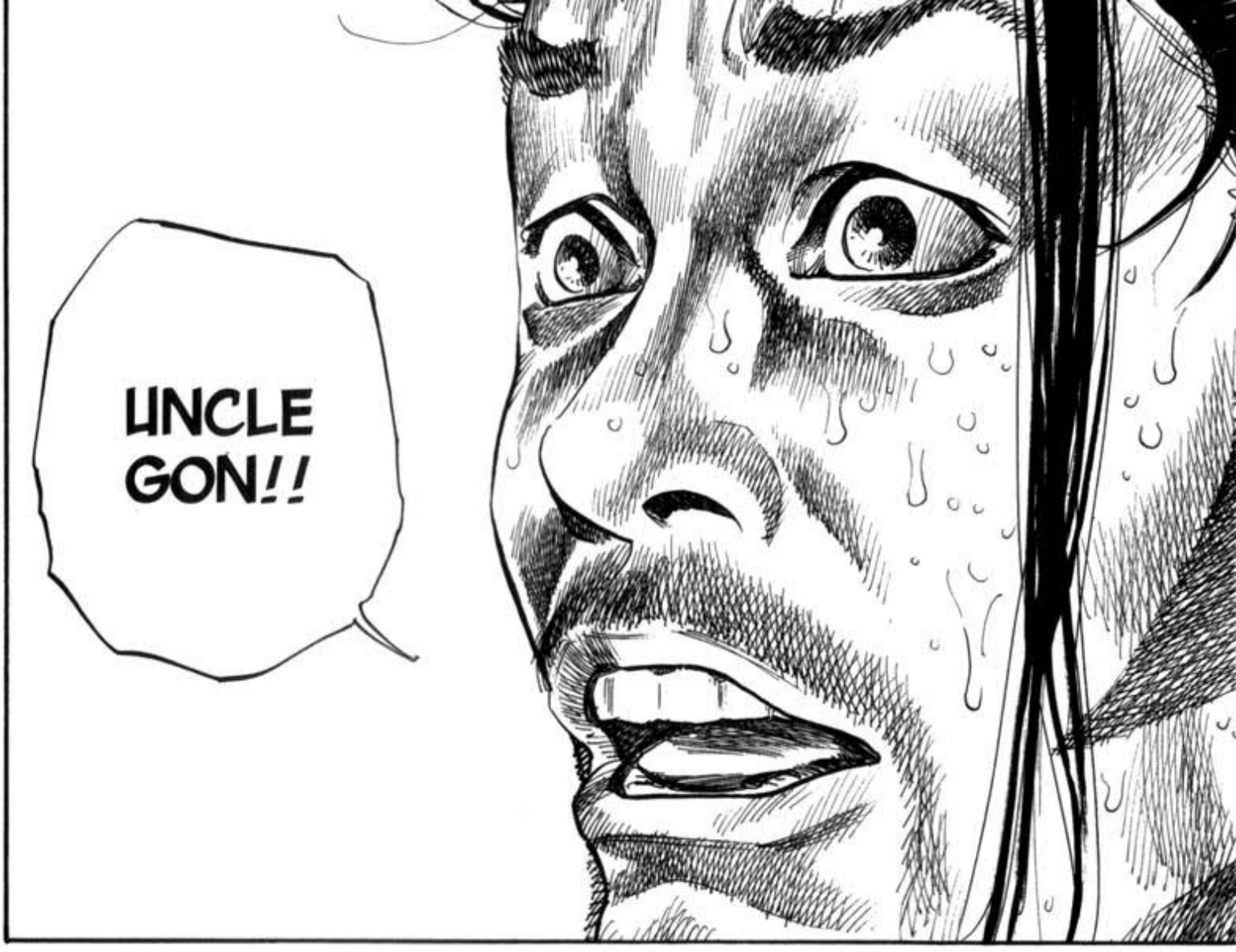
TAKE THIS ONE AND BURY THEM ALL TOGETHER.

...YOU'LL FIND THE CORPSES OF TWO MORE MEN.
FURTHER DOWN THE TRAIL...

UMF
UMF
HUF
SHF
SHF



KOFF
UGH...
HAK HAK
GLANCE
FICH
HUF
HUF
FICH
HUF


UNCLE GON!!

WHAT HAPPENED ?

WHY ...?
SHUF
SHUF
FWAP
FWAP
NO!!!
WHAT HAPPENED ?

YAHH!!
FWAP
FWAP
FIP
FWIP
FWIP
FIP
GASP
!
WHAT
ABOUT
MOTHER?!
OH,
NO...
MOTHER
!
MOTHER
!!

.....

MOTHER!!

#113
Osugi's Ordeal

.....

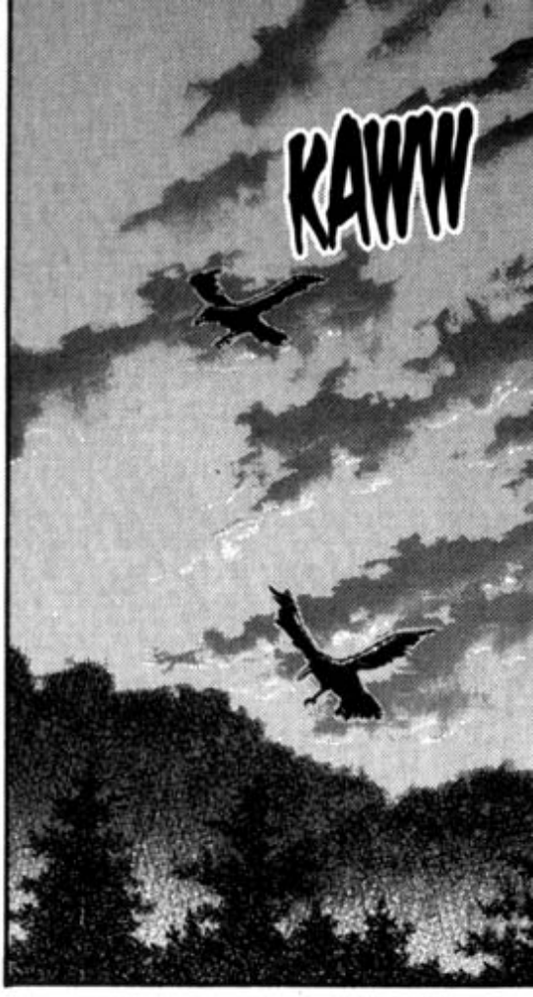
GASP!

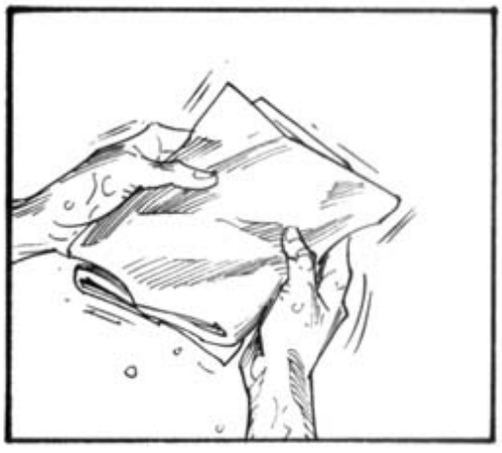
HUF
HUF
SHUF

MOTHER!
WHERE
ARE
YOU?!
MOTHER
!!
BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR
HUF
HUF
BRR
BRR

MOTHER
!!

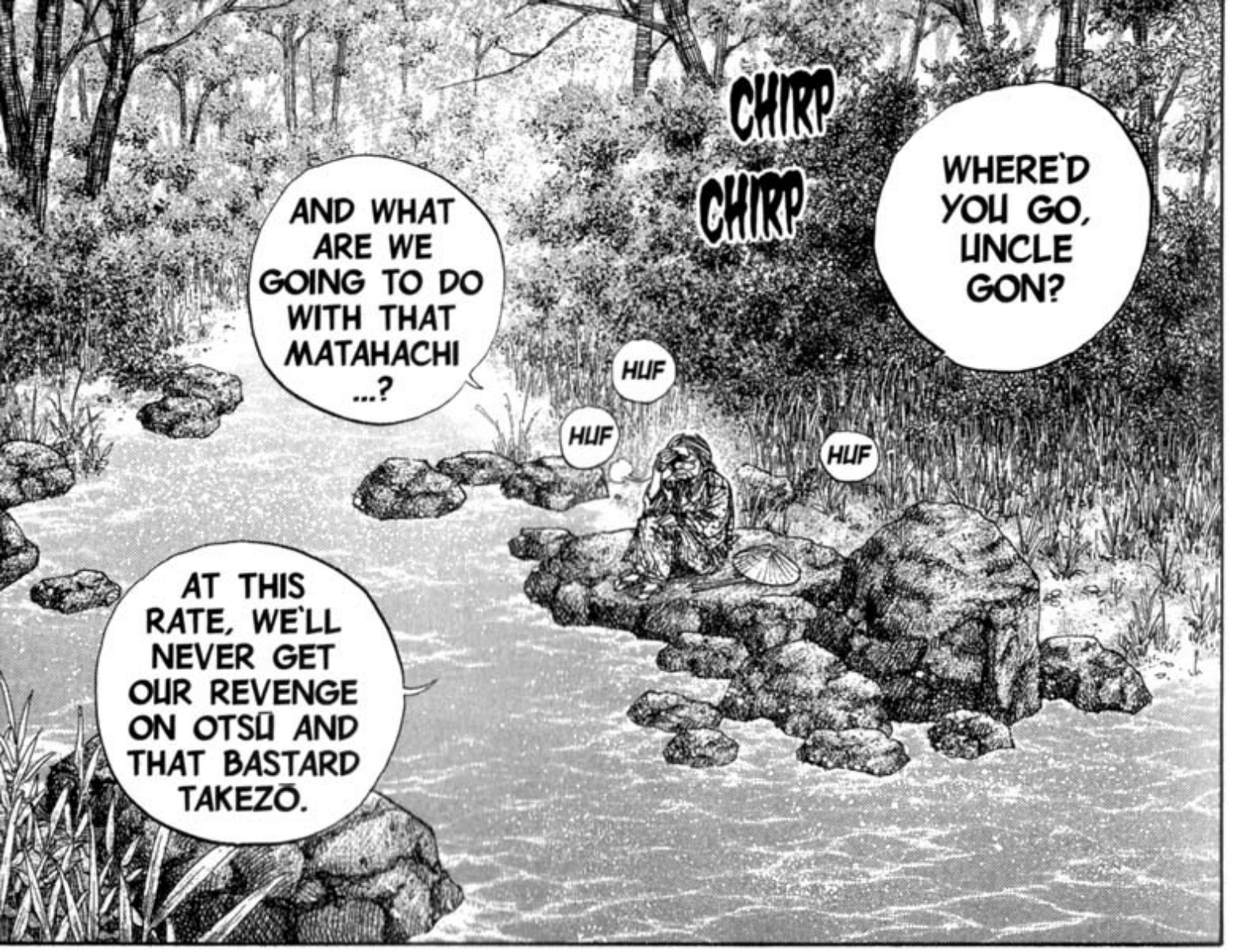
FSSH
FSSH


KAWW



SCRNCH

PLISH
PLISH


CHIRP
CHIRP
WHERE'D YOU GO, UNCLE GON?
AND WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THAT MATAHACHI ...?
HUF
HUF
HUF
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL NEVER GET OUR REVENGE ON OTSŪ AND THAT BASTARD TAKEZŌ.

I MUST FIND THOSE TWO!
IT'S NOTHING !!

BRR
HMM...
I FEEL COLD...

BRR
HUF
HUF
HUF
MAYBE BEING OUT IN THE RAIN TOOK ITS TOLL ON ME...
BRR

OH!
AHH!
FWOM
...!!
PLSH
FSSSSH
FSSSSH

SPLSH
HAK!!

KAWW

PLISH
AHH!
SPLSH
HELP!
KOFF!

PLISH
!!
FSH

FSSHHH
SPLSH
.....

I WONDER WHAT THE CHAIN AND SICKLE IS LIKE!
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP

THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT...
♪ YAA YAA!
♪ YA YA YA YAA! ♪
FWICH
FWICH
DOES THIS MAN REALLY LIVE SO FAR UP HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS?
HUH?
IT'S NOT THE MOUNTAINS I'M WORRIED ABOUT, IT'S THIS SHISHIDO BAIKEN'S REPUTATION.
HOW CAN YOU BE IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD, JŌTARŌ?
IT'S GETTING LATE, ALMOST SUNSET. MAYBE WE SHOULD TURN BACK.
OH, COME ON! YOU GREW UP IN THE MOUNTAINS. HOW CAN YOU BE SCARED?

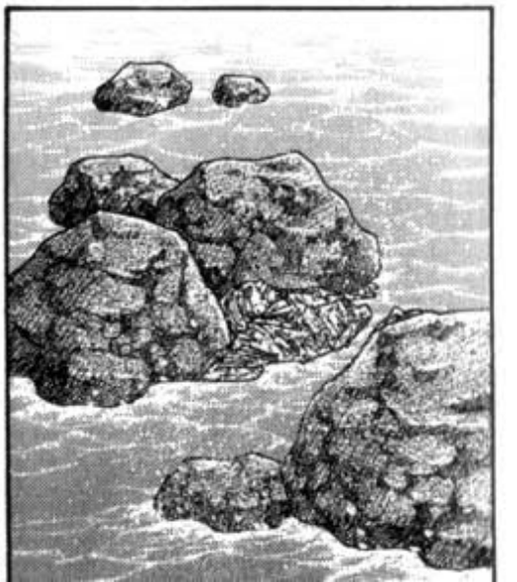
LISTEN ...
SHISHIDO BAIKEN, MASTER OF THE CHAIN AND SICKLE, HAS THE GREATEST REPUTATION AROUND THESE PARTS, RIGHT?
AND MY MASTER'S SEEKING OUT THE STRONGEST OPPONENTS HE CAN FIND.
SO HE'S SURE TO GO TO BAIKEN!
YOU'RE SO DIM, OTSŪ.
HMPH!
I'M EXCITED BECAUSE WE'LL SEE MY MASTER SOON.
THAT'S WHY HE MUST BE SOMEWHERE HERE IN THESE MOUNTAINS.
♪PEE! PEE!
FICH
FICH
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I NEED TO GO PEE.

TAKEZŌ...

"HE MUST BE SOMEWHERE IN THESE MOUNTAINS."

PLISH
PLISH

HM...
TRKL
TRKL



?!
HELP! SOMEONE'S DROWNED!!

IT'S GRANNY HON'IDEN...
GRANNY!!

...!!

GRANNY!!
SPLSH
SPLSH
GRANNY!!
HUH?!

GO TO THE TAVERN AND GET HELP!!
SPLSH
SPLSH
PLSH
IS SHE ALIVE, OTSŪ?!
UMF!
ALL RIGHT!!
UNH...
SHE'S... SO HEAVY...
FSSHHH
SPLSH
GRANNY !!
GRANNY !!
FICH
FICH
FICH
.....
UMF !
UMF!
...
NNGH ...
FSSHHH

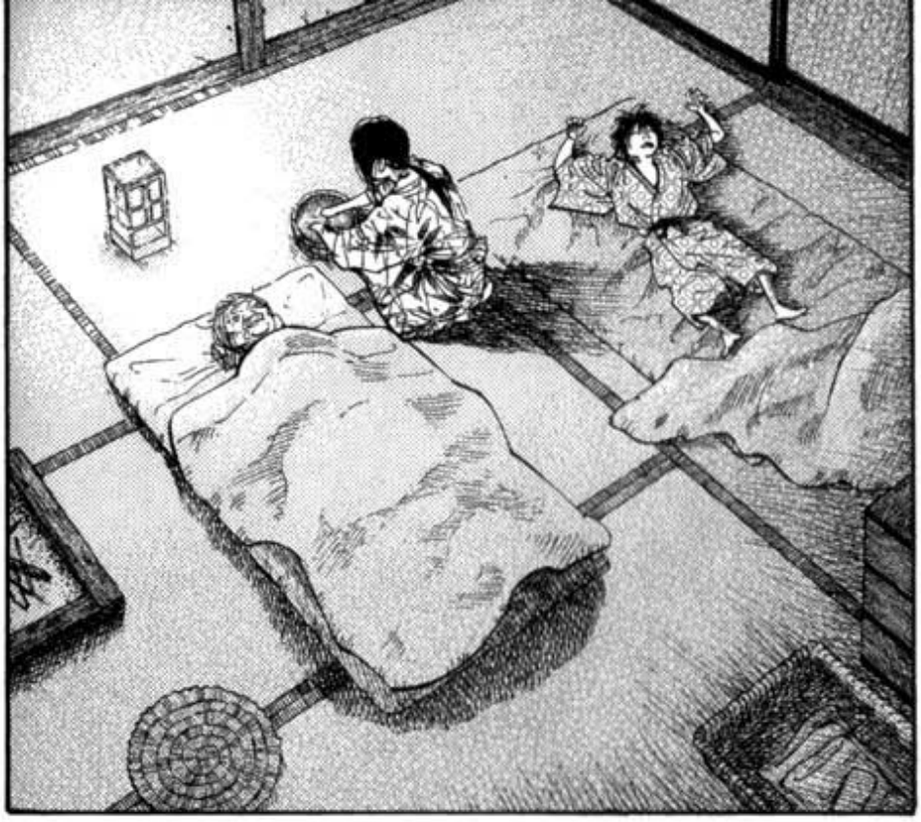
FICH
FICH
HEY, OTSŪ!!
HEY! IS SHE ALL RIGHT?!
I'M BACK!
FICH
IS SHE ALIVE?!

HUF
HUF
HUF

IS SHE DEAD?!

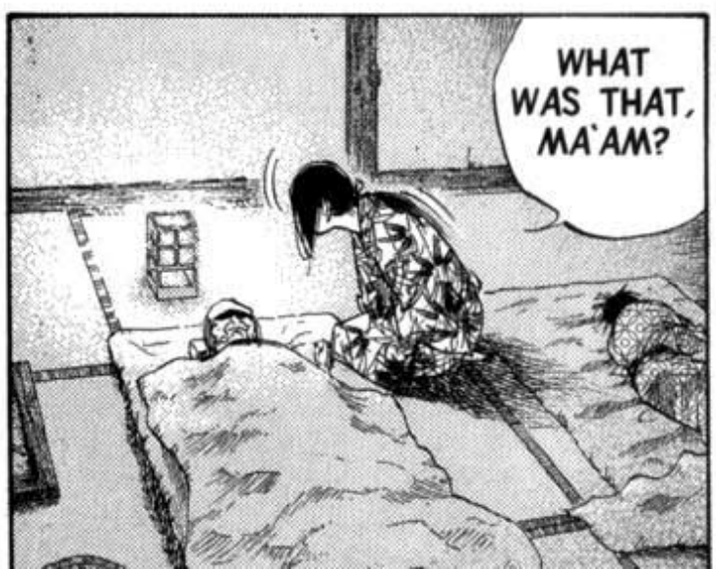
UMF
UMF

.....
KOFF!
KOFF!
KOFF!
SPLRT
HAKK!
UGH
...
KOFF
KOFF
HAKK!
WOW
!
SHE'S
ALIVE!
SHE'S
ALIVE.

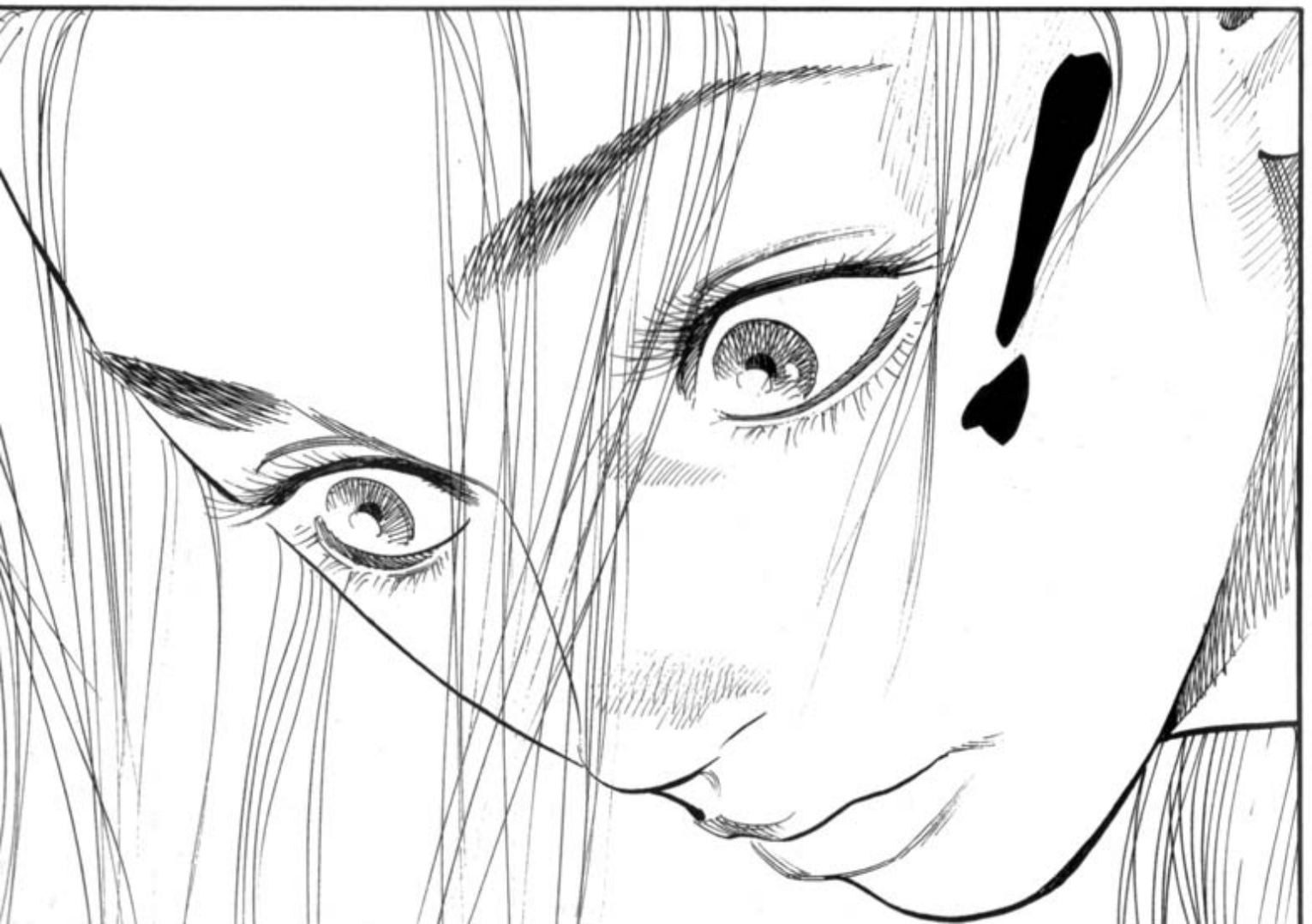


.....

WHAT IS GRANNY HON'IDEN DOING HERE?


WHAT WAS THAT, MA'AM?

...KILL HER...
KILL THAT OTSŪ...


!

KILL THEM...
...THAT BASTARD TAKEZŌ AND THAT DAMN OTSŪ...

GASP!
IT'S MORNING ALREADY ...
KAWW

UNCLE GON IS GONE...
NOW HE'S JUST A LUMP OF DEAD FLESH...

KICH
KICH
UNCLE GON...

Vagabond

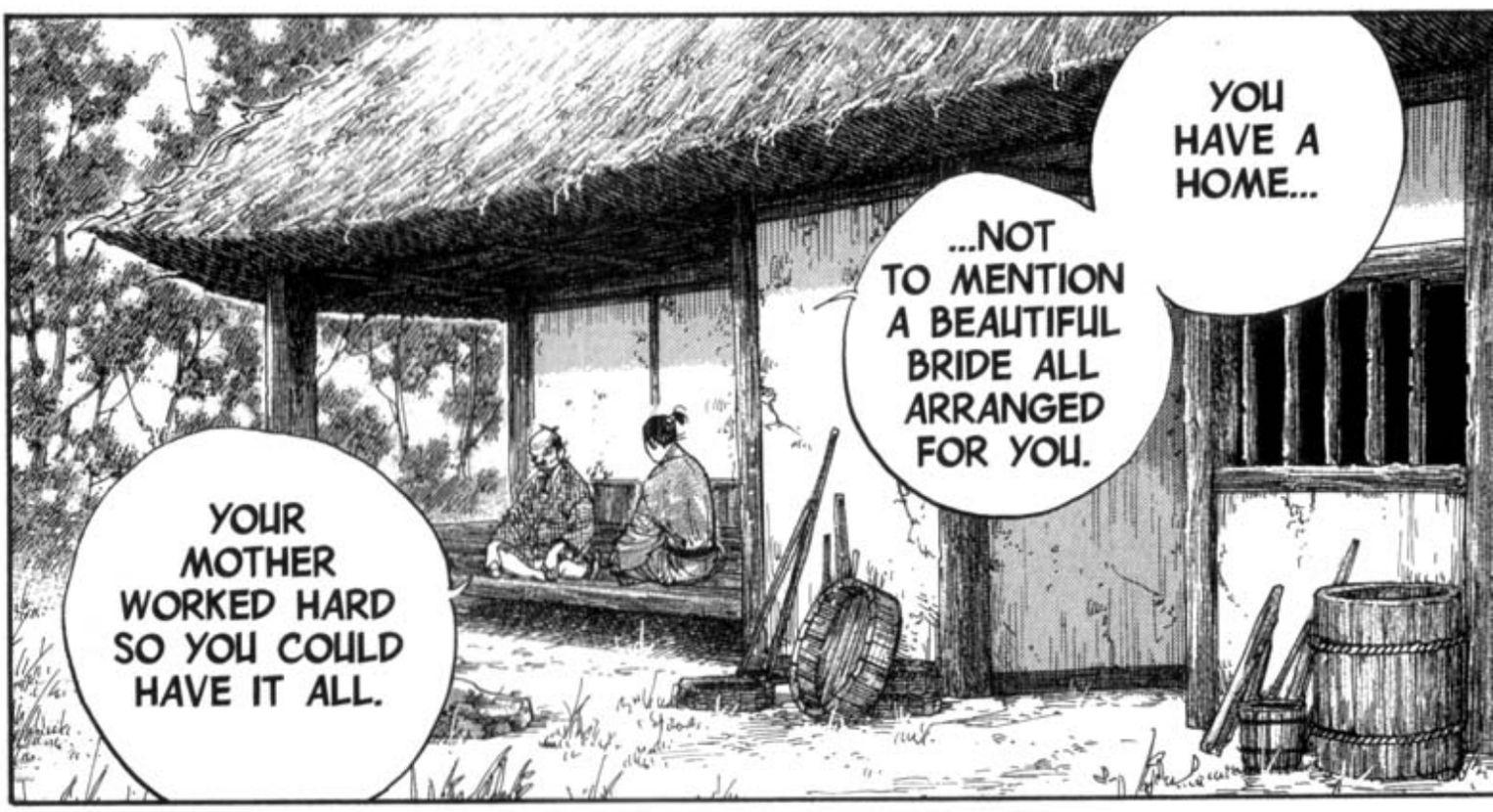
(STRANGE SONG.)
(YAA)
(YAA YAA YA YA YAA)

#114 He and I

UNCLE GON...

DON'T GO, MATA-HACHI.
I'M SURE IT'S THAT TAKEZŌ WHO COAXED YOU INTO THIS.
MFFL...
SHH!
SHE'LL HEAR US!!
I WANT TO MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF!
I WANT TO SEE HOW FAR I CAN GO WITH A SINGLE SPEAR, A SINGLE SWORD...
I WANT TO SEE HOW MUCH OF A MAN I REALLY AM...
NO!!
IT'S MY OWN IDEA!!
HMM...
I WANT TO TEST MYSELF AND TAKE ON THIS CHALLENGE!!

.....
BUT THE WORLD OUT THERE ISN'T AS EASY AS YOU THINK IT IS.
WELL, ALL THAT SOUNDS NICE...


YOUR MOTHER WORKED HARD SO YOU COULD HAVE IT ALL.
...NOT TO MENTION A BEAUTIFUL BRIDE ALL ARRANGED FOR YOU.
YOU HAVE A HOME...

FWIP
.....

AND YOU WANT TO JUST TOSS ALL THAT AWAY?

OF COURSE I DON'T WANT TO SACRIFICE OTSŪ OR MY MOTHER!!
BUT...

I DON'T MIND SACRIFICING MY OWN LIFE!!

IF I JUST STAY HERE BY MY MOTHER'S SIDE...
IF I BECOME THE SUCCESSOR TO THE HON'IDEN FAMILY AND STAY IN THIS VILLAGE UNTIL I DIE...

!!
UNCLE GON.

I FEEL LIKE I WON'T AMOUNT TO ANYTHING!!
HERE.
?!
.....
SEVEN-TEEN...
MATA-HACHI...
HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW...?
SEVEN-TEEN, HUH...?

THUMP
DON'T YOU EVER SAY YOU'RE WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOUR OWN LIFE!
YOU MUST COME HOME!!
GLG GLG
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL TALK TO YOUR MOTHER.
BUT, MATA-HACHI...
BECOME STRONGER AND COME BACK HOME!!

SO... YOU'RE GROWING AND BECOMING A MAN...
FWIP
RRBL
RRBL

HUF
HUF
KCH
KCH
FICH
"YOU SAY YOU'RE SASAKI KOJIRŌ?"
"I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT."
UNCLE GON...
KCH
I'M NOT SASAKI KOJIRŌ.
UNCLE GON WAS RIGHT.
I'M A FRAUD.
KCH
I WAS GOING TO TELL EVERYONE THE TRUTH AFTER I BECAME REALLY STRONG.
I THOUGHT IN TIME, I *WOULD* BECOME STRONGER.
KCH

.....

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D DIE SO SOON!!
.....
ARGH!!

MOTHER
?!

...!!
SHUF
SHUF
SHUF

SHUF
SHUF
SHUF

SHUF
SHUF

SHUF
SHUF

FWICH
FICH

.....
SHUF

SHUF

.....

HUF
HUF
TAKEZŌ!!
HUF
HUF
THAT WAS TAKEZŌ!!
FWOOSH

LOOK HOW STRONG HE'S BECOME!!
SOB

SNIF
SNIF
SNIF

I SMELL BLOOD...
LOOKS LIKE I'VE FINALLY ARRIVED--I'M IN SHISHIDO BAIKEN'S TERRITORY...

Vagabond

(I'LL SAY IT ONE
MORE TIME.)

#115
Apparition
LOOKS LIKE...
...I'VE FINALLY ARRIVED...

I'M IN SHISHIDO BAIKEN'S TERRITORY.

FWUMP
FWOM

GRMBL
GRMBL

KAWW
KAWW

I...
I'M STARVING ...
GRMBL

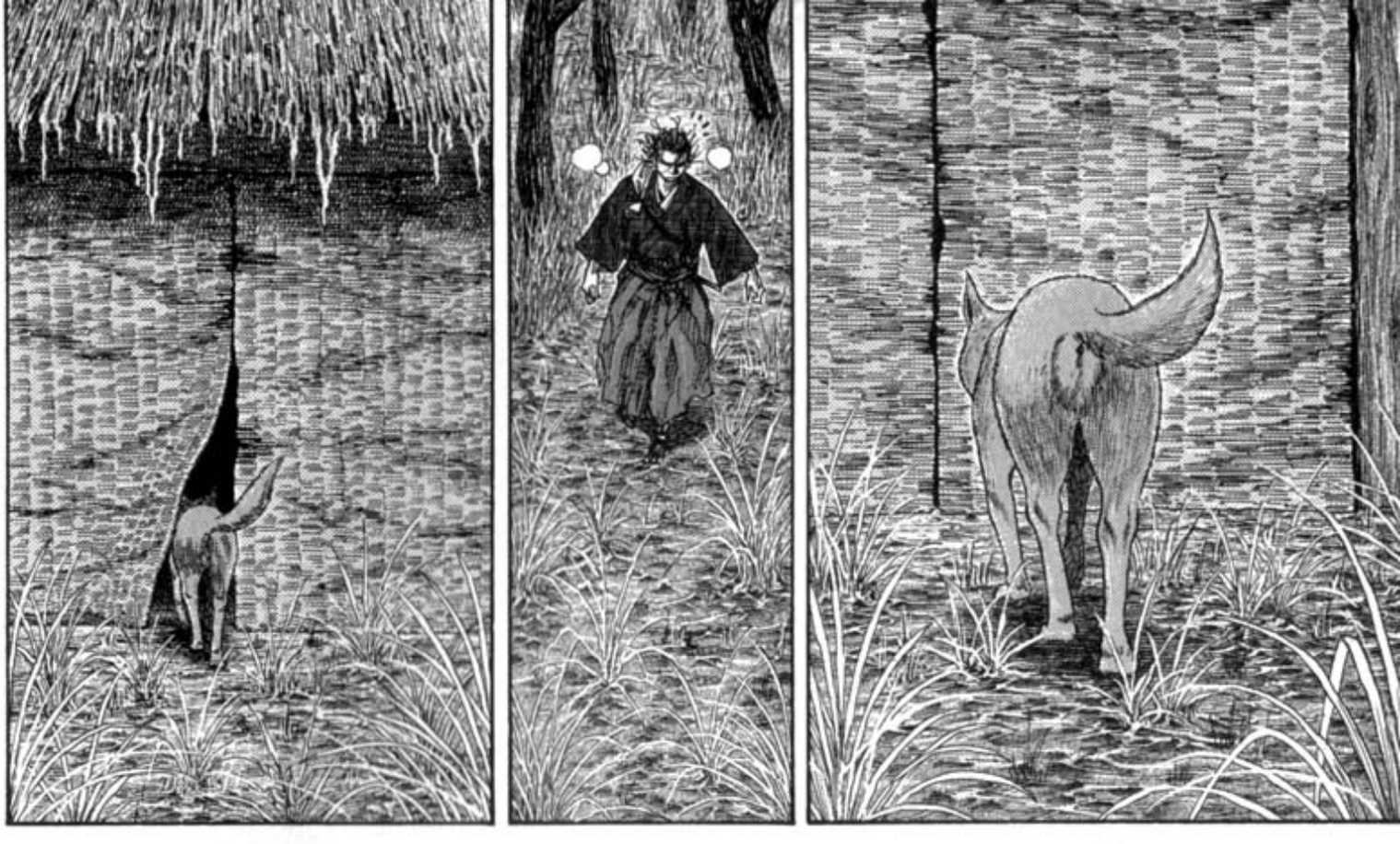
...IN DAYS...
HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT MEAL...
WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE IF I CAME ACROSS BAIKEN RIGHT NOW.

HUH?

COME BACK HERE.
SHF SHF
I'M HUNGRY!
I'M GONNA EAT YOU!

TP
HEY...

SWIK
I HEAR RED DOGS ARE TASTY...
NEVER HAD ONE MYSELF.
FUP
A DOG...



HUF
HUF
HUF

EXCUSE ME...
I WOULD BE MUCH OBLIGED ...
...IF YOU COULD...
...SPARE ME SOME FOOD.
PLEASE ...
DON'T BE SCARED.
I'M NOT HERE TO HURT YOU.

MNCH
MNCH
SLRP
SLRP
.....

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU.
COME OVER HERE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SIT IN THE CORNER...

IT'S ODD.
THOSE BANDITS SCARED THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF ME...
...BUT I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU.

I CAN TELL THOSE MEN ARE NO MATCH AGAINST YOU, MUSASHI...
BUT ODDLY ENOUGH, I'M NOT SCARED OF YOU.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
HM...
MIYAMOTO MUSASHI, RŌNIN FROM SAKUSHŪ.
.....
NO ONE'S EVER SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO ME BEFORE.
REALLY?
.....

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE, ISN'T IT?
...TO FIND BAIKEN?
SHISHIDO BAIKEN'S DEAD.
WHAT?!

THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAME LOOKING FOR HIM WERE NE'ER-DO-WELLS LIKE HIM AND HIS MEN.
HE WAS JUST THE FILTHY LEADER OF A BAND OF THIEVES.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT HE'D COME DOWN AND STEAL FROM US AND CAUSE US NO END OF TROUBLE.
HE WAS WORTHLESS... THOUGH I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT CHAIN AND SICKLE OR WHATEVER IT IS HE'S KNOWN FOR.
IT WAS ONLY *AFTER* BAIKEN DIED...
...THAT SWORDSMEN LIKE YOU STARTED COMING...

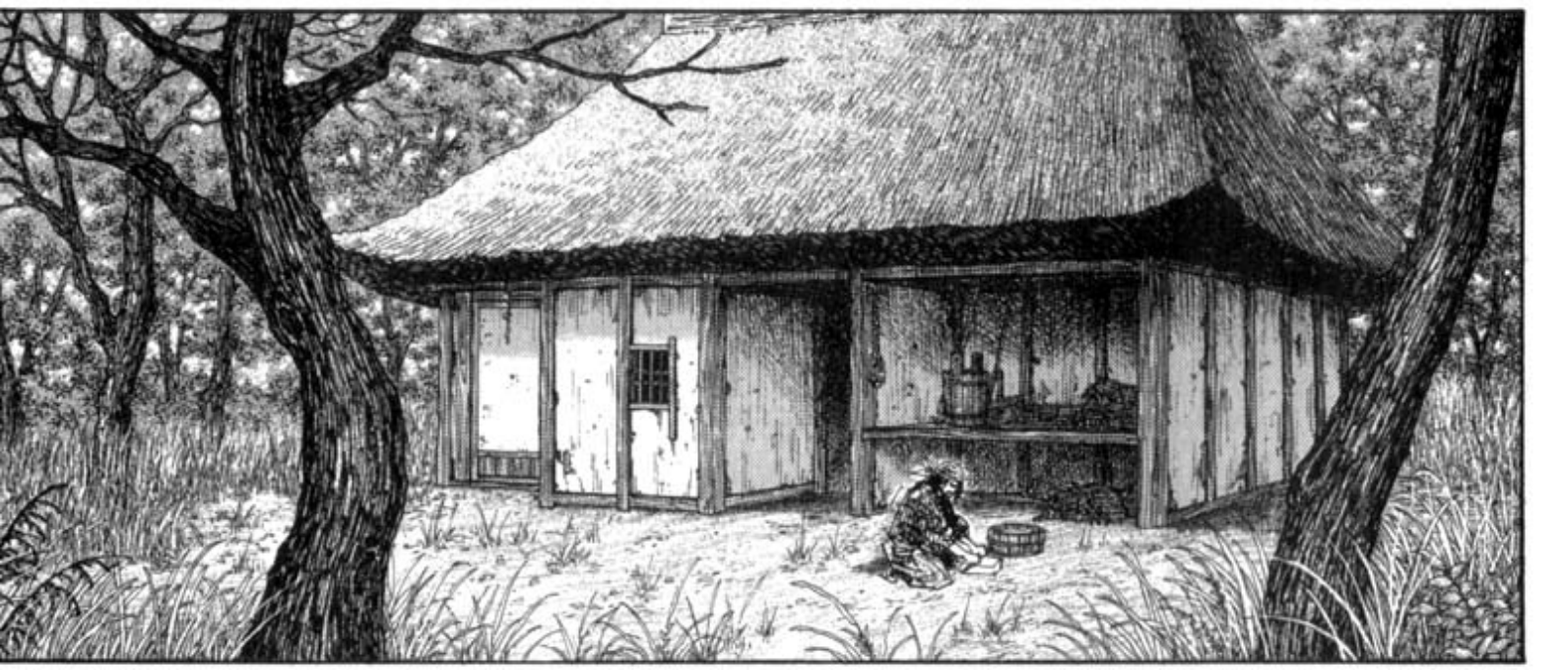
AS IF YOU'RE HERE SEEKING OUT A GHOST...

A GHOST...?
FICH

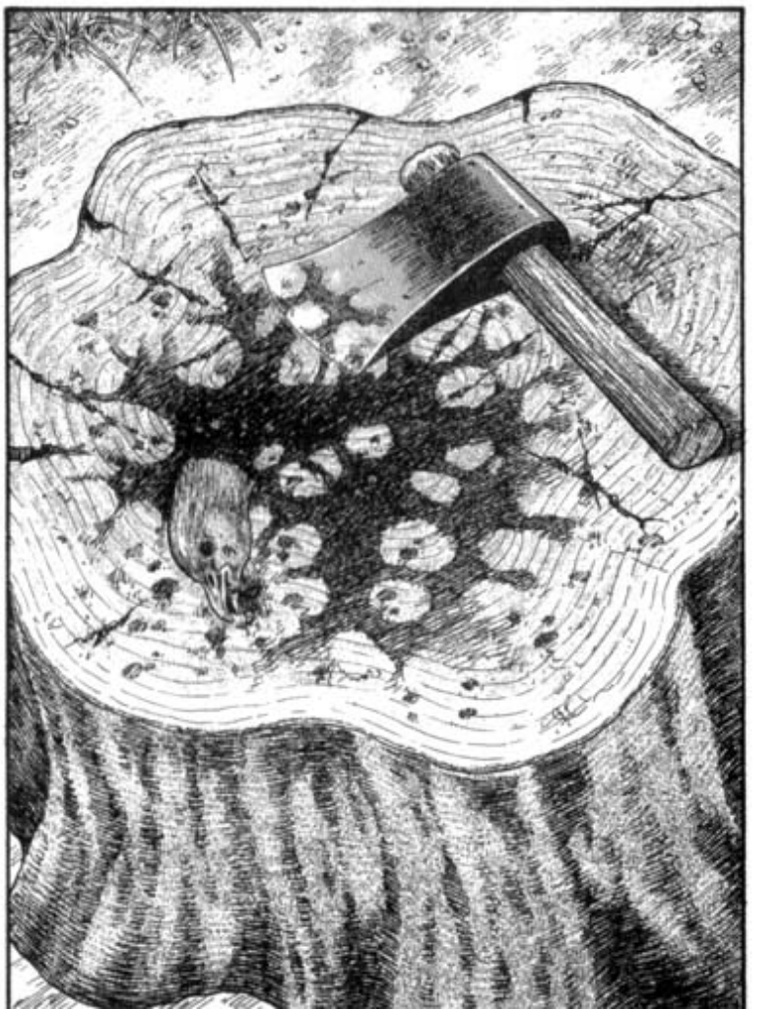
KAWW
KAWW

SHUF
SHUF

FICH

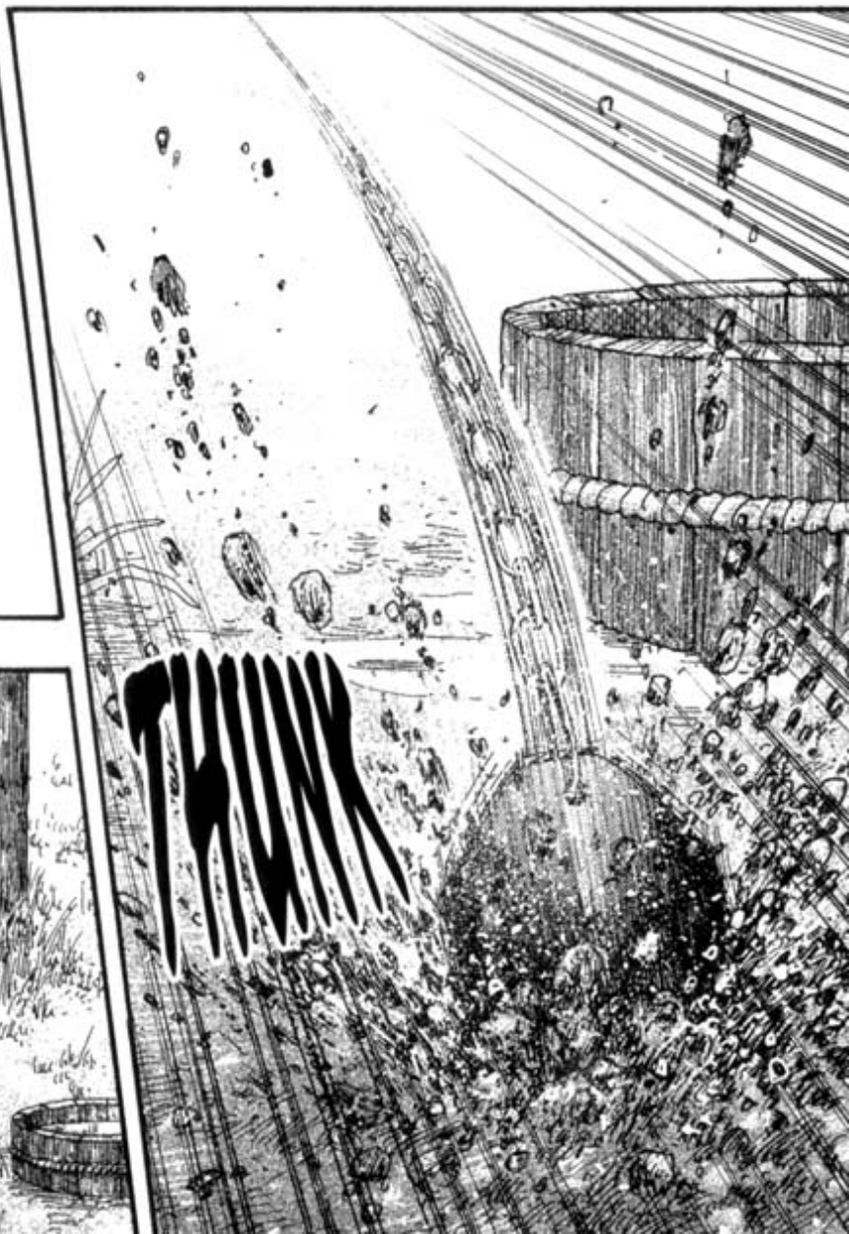


PLIP
PLIP



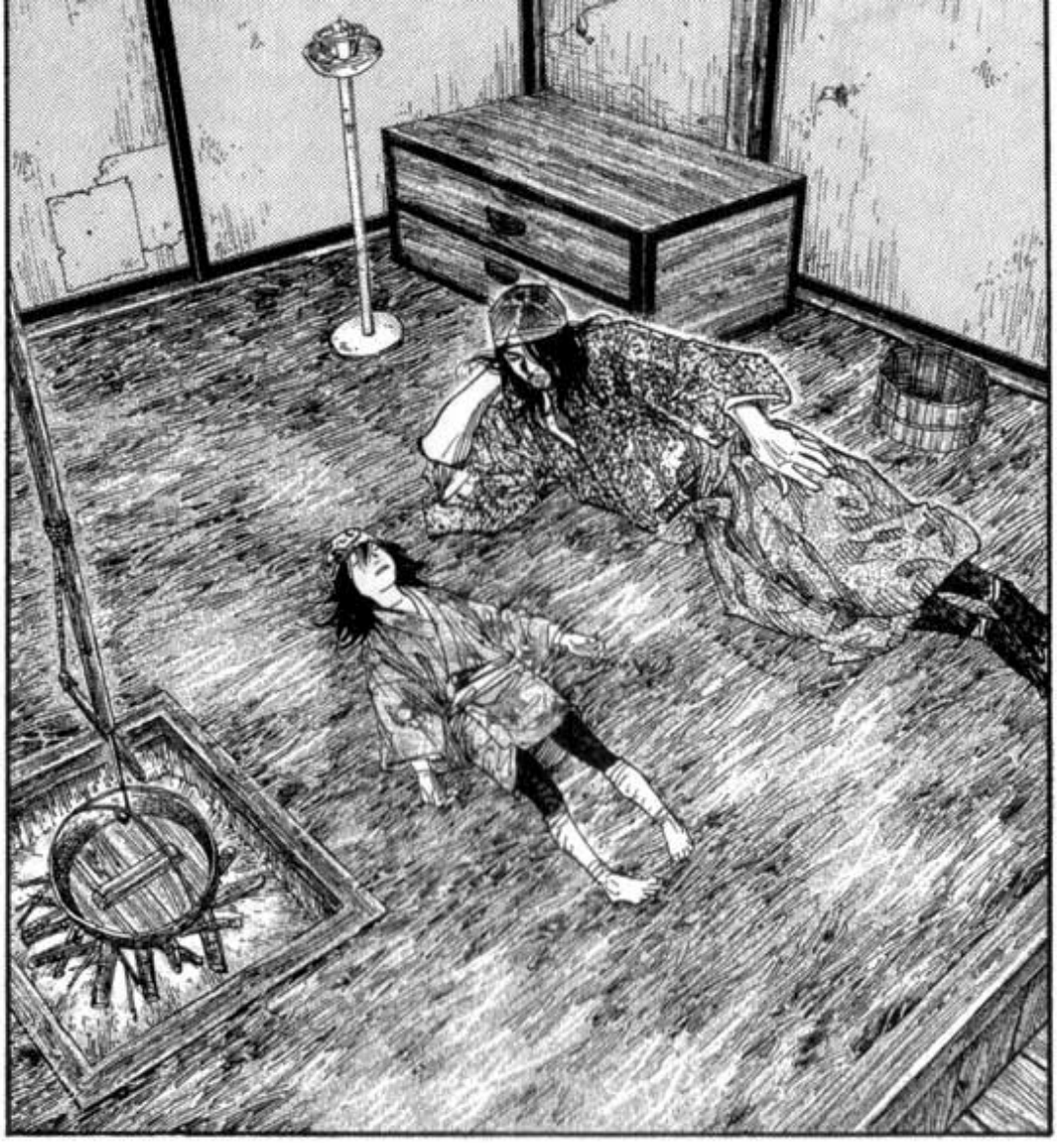
SHK
SHK
SHK

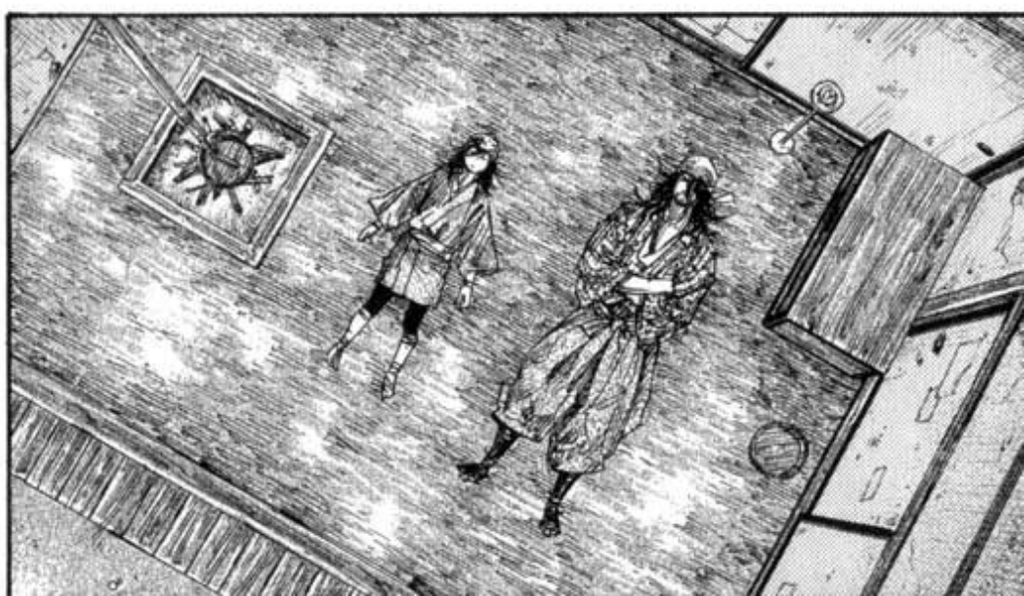
SHK
SHK
SHK

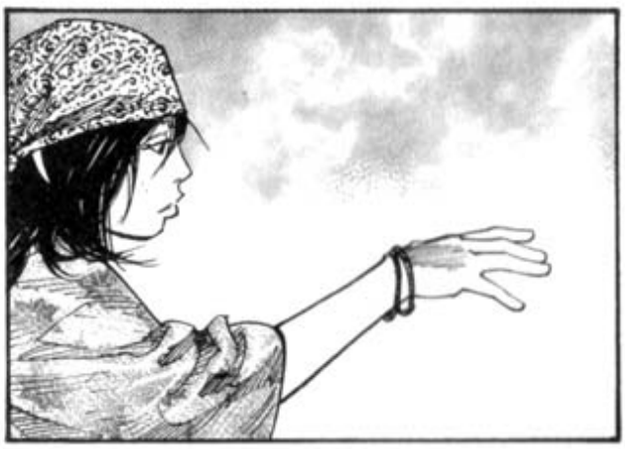

THUNK

FWP
KRAK
WOOSH
FWOOSH
TWANG

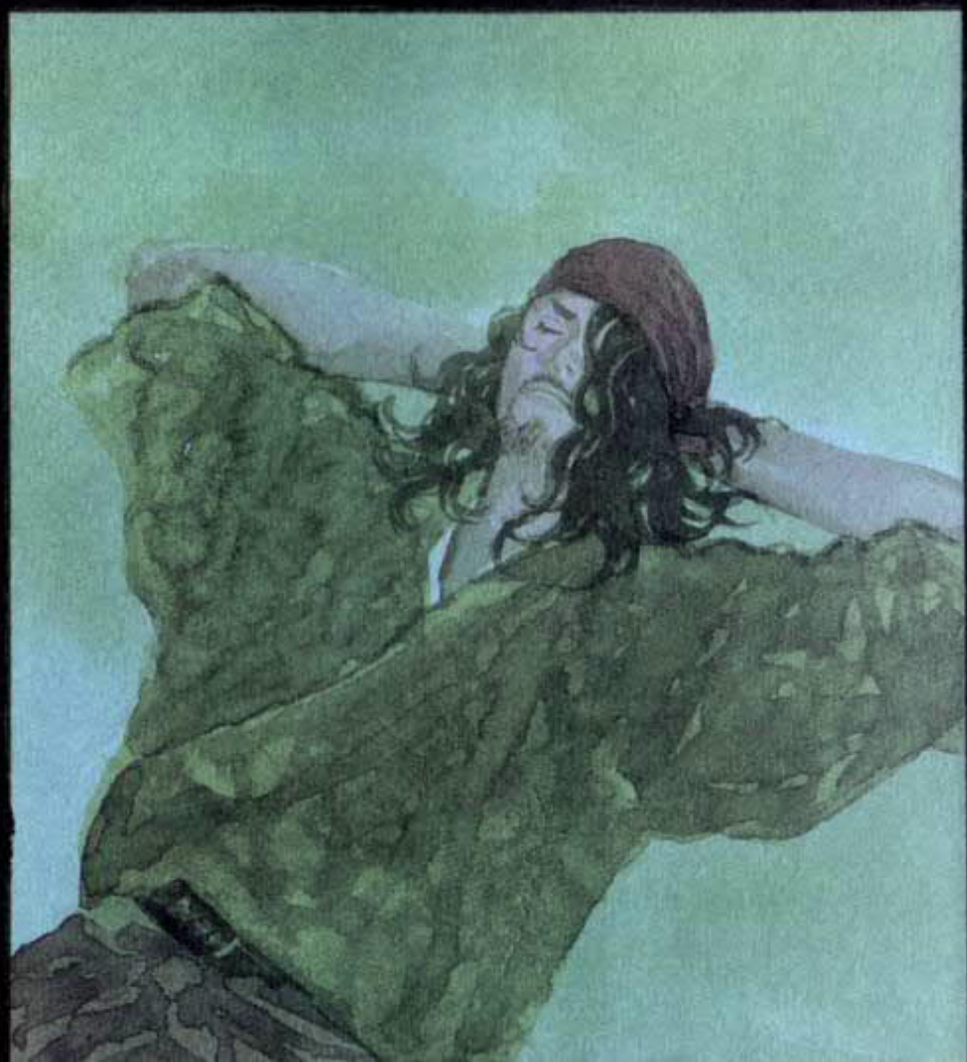
FWCH







SHUF



#116 | Baiken

SHISHIDO BAIKEN OF THE CHAIN AND SICKLE...
IS THAT YOU?
TAKEZŌ...

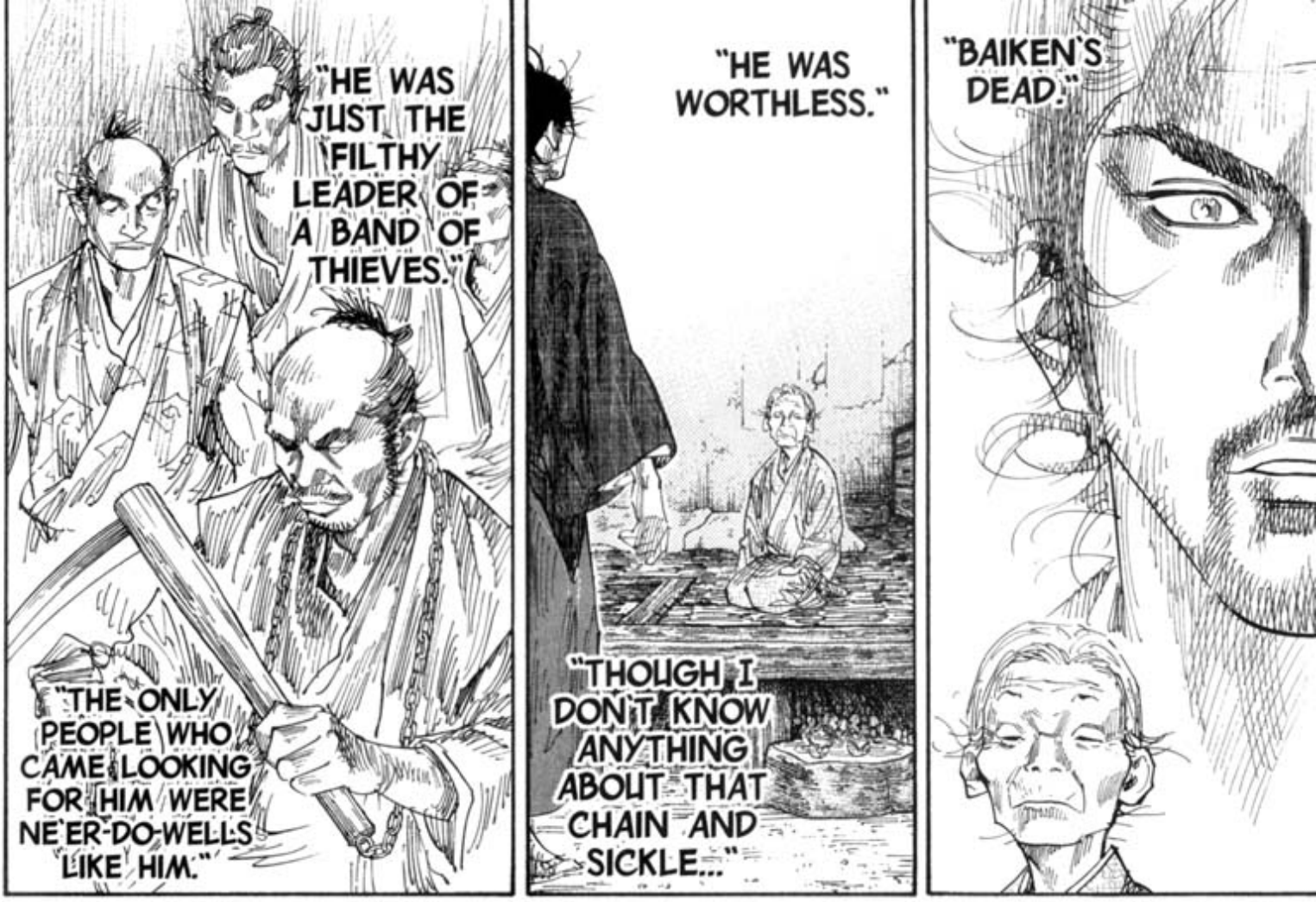
NOW YOU CALL YOURSELF "MIYAMOTO MUSASHI."

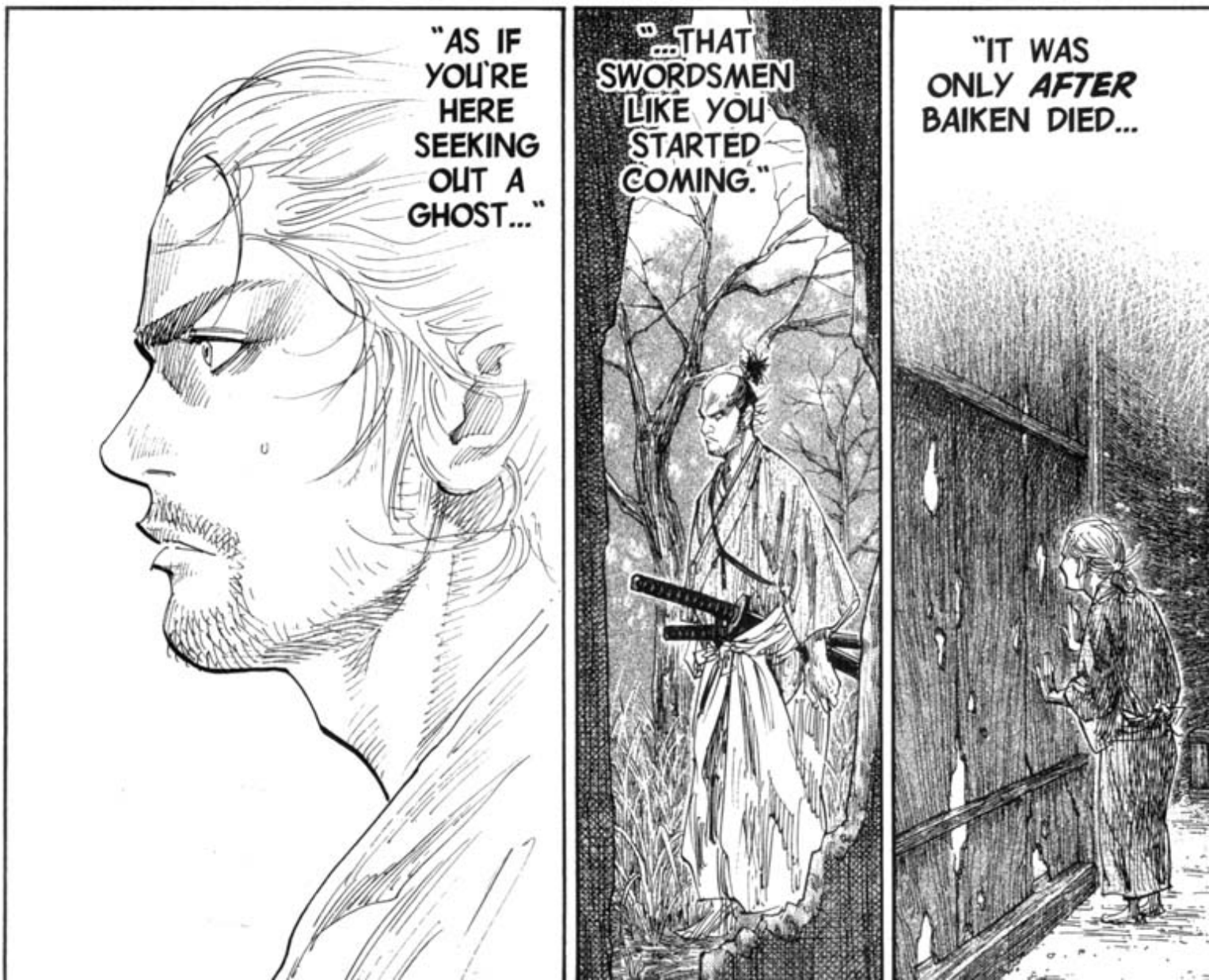
TWK
?!
NO...

WHAT --!?
!!

TSUJIKAZE?!

"TAKEZŌ!!"
TSUJIKAZE KŌHEI...!!
"NO ONE'S GONNA MOURN ...
"...THE DEATH OF A PERSON LIKE YOU."
"I'LL SEND YOU OFF WITH A GLORIOUS CRIMSON DEATH."
YOU'RE BAIKEN?!


"HE WAS JUST THE FILTHY LEADER OF A BAND OF THIEVES."
"THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAME LOOKING FOR HIM WERE NE'ER-DO-WELLS LIKE HIM."
"HE WAS WORTHLESS."
"THOUGH I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT CHAIN AND SICKLE..."
"BAIKEN'S DEAD."


"AS IF YOU'RE HERE SEEKING OUT A GHOST..."
"...THAT SWORDSMEN LIKE YOU STARTED COMING."
"IT WAS ONLY *AFTER* BAIKEN DIED..."

SO YOU'RE THE GHOST!!

DID YOU COME HERE TO SEE THE CHAIN AND SICKLE?
OR...

...ARE YOU HERE TO KILL ME?

WHY WOULD I WANT TO KILL YOU?
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO KILL ME.

.....
YOU'VE CHANGED ...

.....

WELL...
I SUPPOSE WE'VE BOTH GONE THROUGH A LOT.
.....
YOUR TWISTED GRIN...
IT'S GONE.
WELL, IF YOU'RE HERE TO SEE THE CHAIN AND SICKLE, I'LL OBLIGE YOU...
STEP OUTSIDE.
HMPH...
BACK THEN...
...YOU WERE THE ONE CHATTING AWAY.
!!

KRAK
ANOTHER CHAIN AND SICKLE?

FWINCH
DON'T INTER-FERE.
RINDŌ...
IT'S OKAY.
.....
HE'S AN OLD FRIEND.

HMPH

.....
I THOUGHT I HIT HIM...
!!
THIS ONE'S NOT LIKE THE OTHERS...

VWSH
VWSH
VWSH
VWSH
VWSH

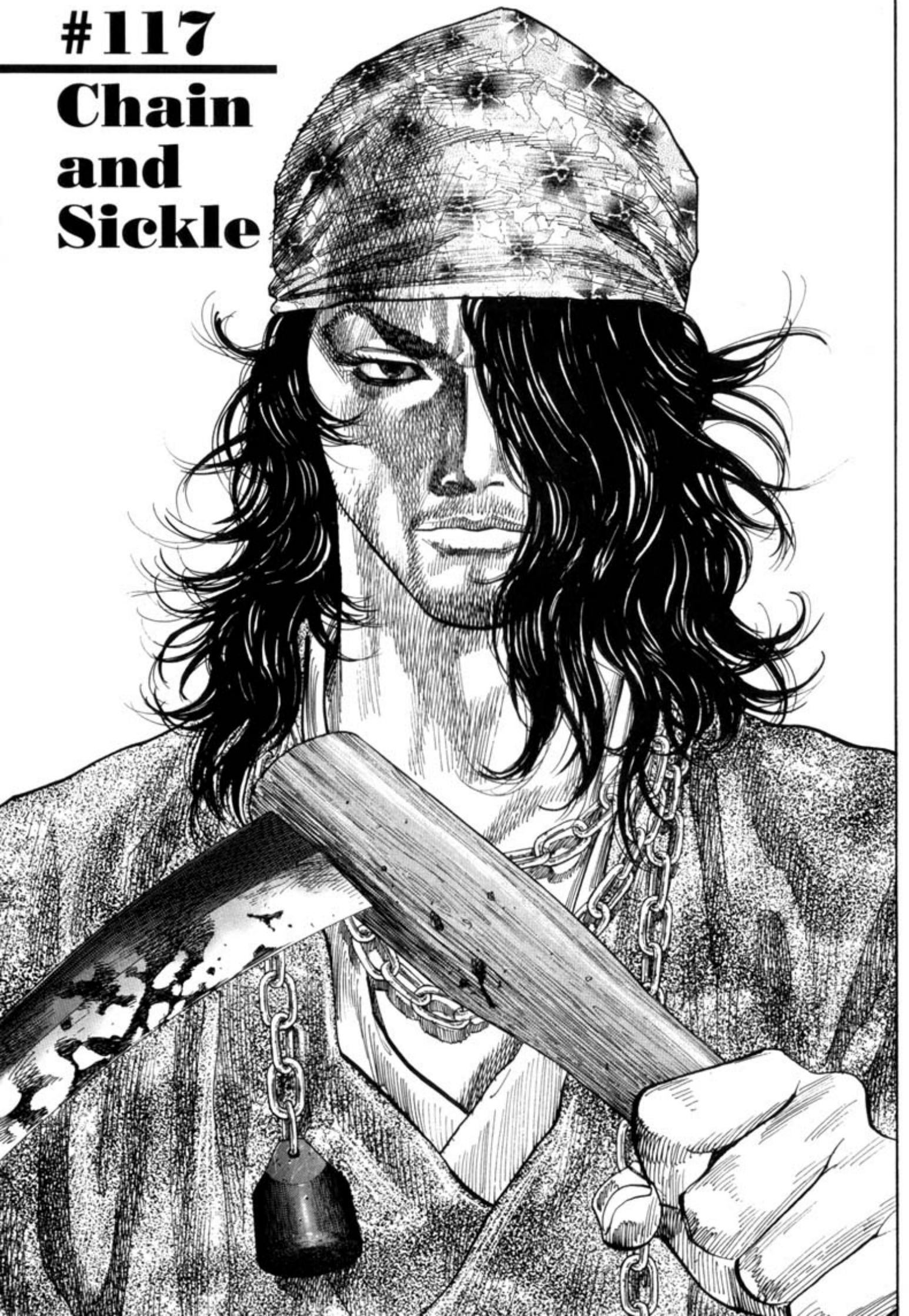
VWSH
VWSH
VWSH
VWSH
VWSH
SNP
SNP
SNP
VWSH
VWSH
VWSH

I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU, EITHER.
I'M NOT OUT TO KILL YOU.
YES...
I'LL SHOW YOU THE CHAIN AND SICKLE IF YOU WANT.
HOWEVER...

...I ONLY KNOW HOW TO USE IT WITH LETHAL INTENT...

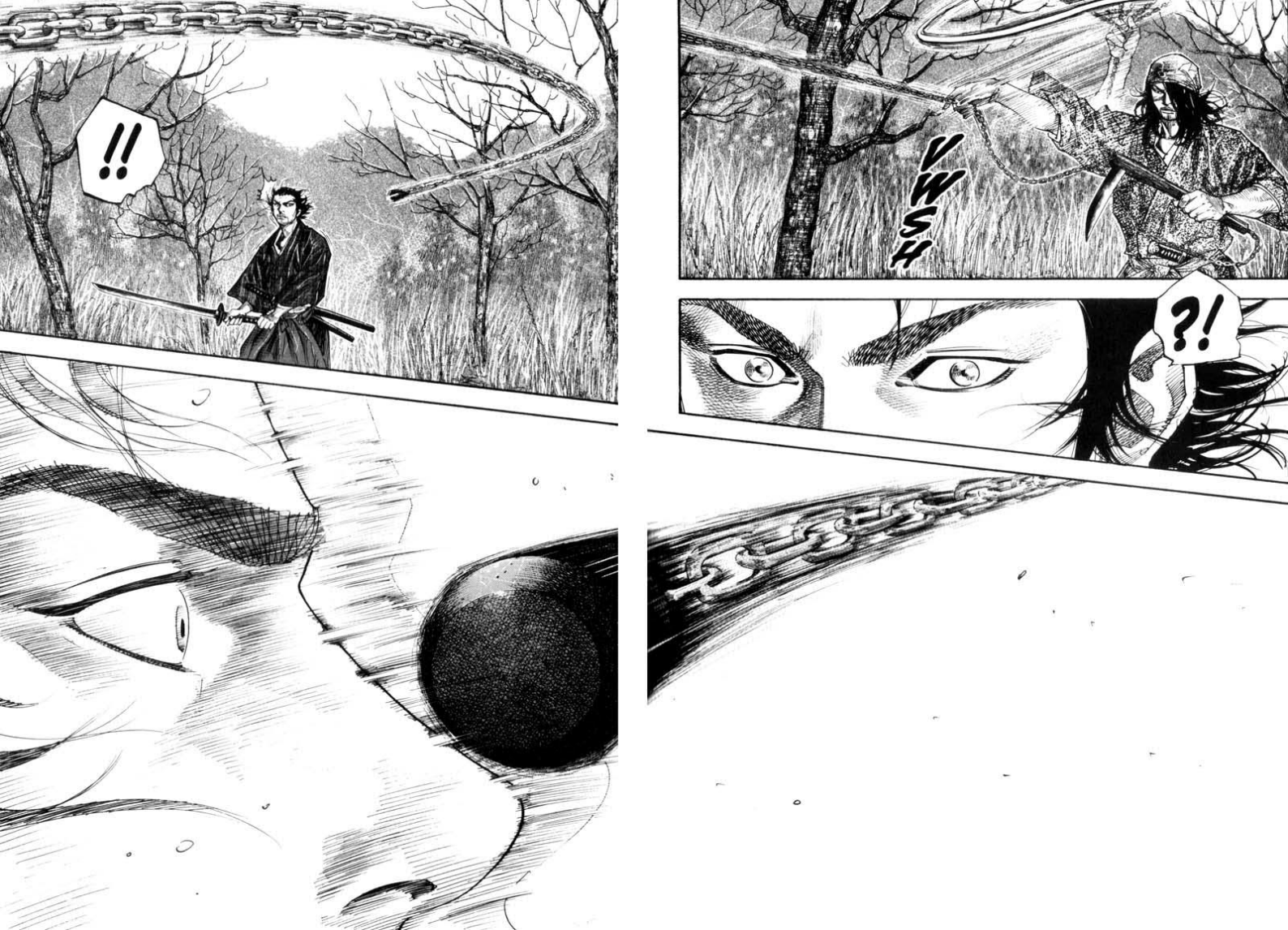
THAT'S FINE WITH ME.

#117
Chain and Sickle



VWSH
VWSH
VWSH
FICH

SHOW ME THIS WEAPON, THE CHAIN AND SICKLE...
CHK
COME NOW, KŌHEI...
NO--
FICH
SHISHIDO BAIKEN.


!!
VWSH
?!

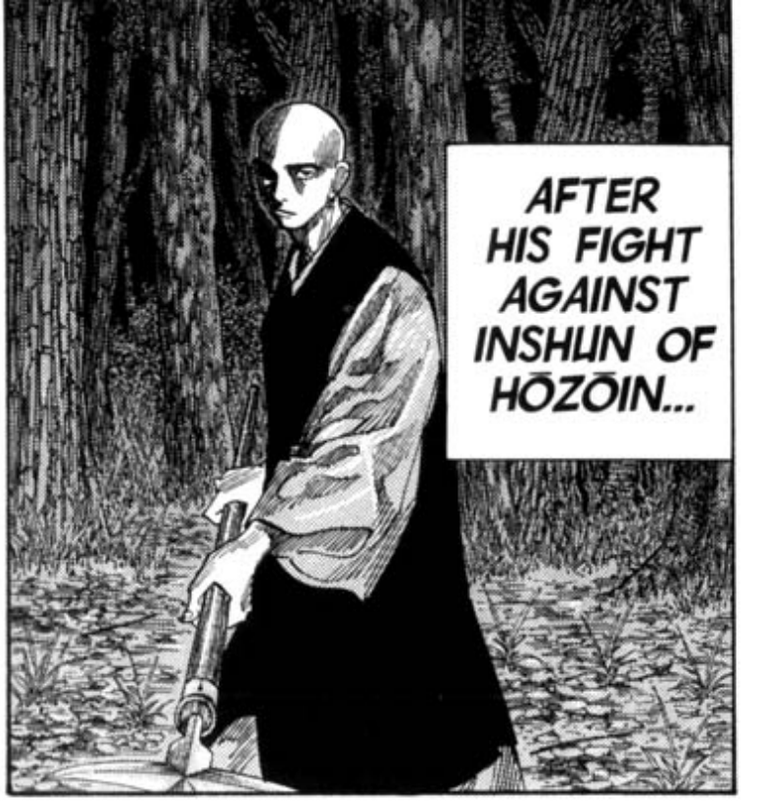
THWAK
KRICH
UMF...
NGHH...
PLISH
!!

HMFF!!
TUGG
ARGH
...
NNGH
...
VWSH
VWSH
VWSH
VWSH
HUF
HUF
HUF
VWSH
VWSH
VWSH
VWSH

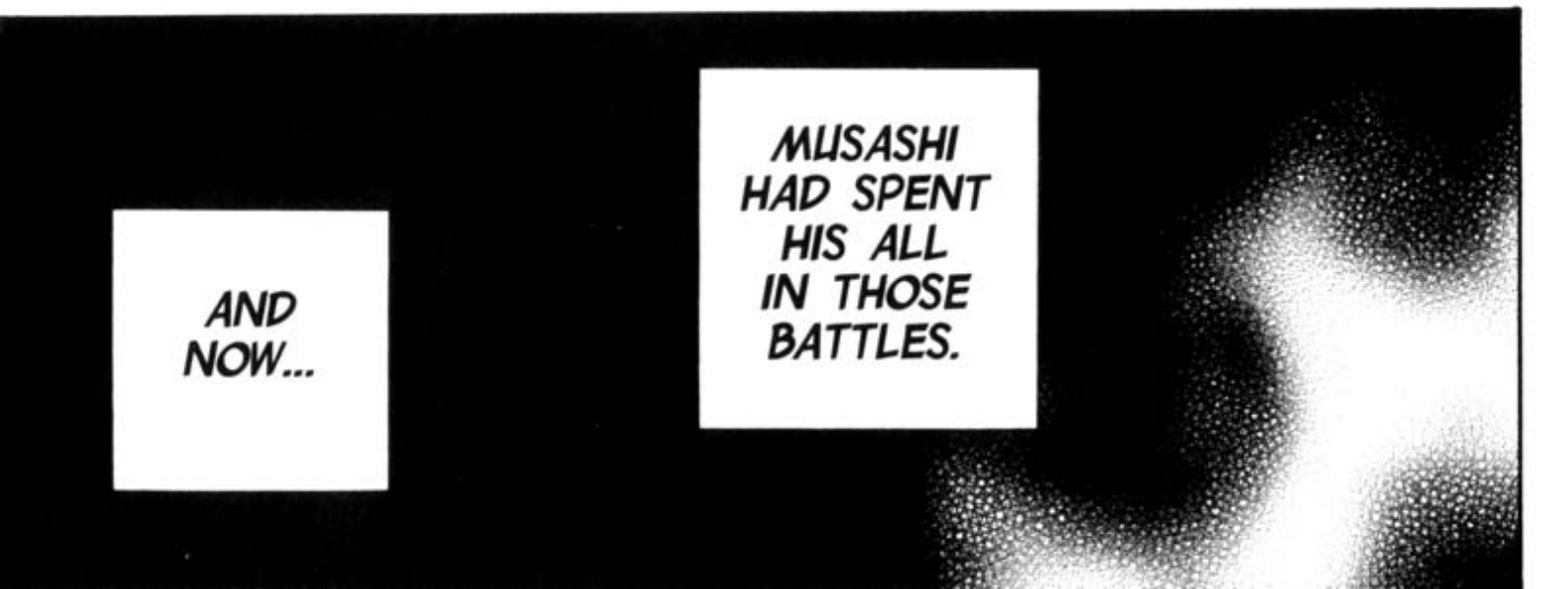
DEVASTATING!
A DIRECT HIT FROM THAT WEIGHT COULD CRUSH A PERSON WITH A SINGLE BLOW!!

VWSH
VWSH
AT THIS POINT, MUSASHI REALIZED ...
STANDING BEFORE BAIKEN...
...HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE IN THIS BATTLE.

AFTER HIS BATTLE AGAINST THE SENIOR DISCIPLES OF THE YAGYŪ...


AFTER HIS FIGHT AGAINST INSHUN OF HŌZŌIN...

AFTER HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE INVINCIBLE SEKISHŪSAI...


MUSASHI HAD SPENT HIS ALL IN THOSE BATTLES.
AND NOW...

HE SHOULD HAVE REALIZED...
...HE HAD FOOLISHLY LET HIS GUARD DOWN.

THWAK
!!

THE SICKLE IS ONLY USED TO FINISH THE OPPONENT OFF.
THE ATTACK OF THAT LEAD WEIGHT IS EVERY-THING.
THE CHAIN !!
THE MOVEMENT OF THE CHAIN IS EVERYTHING.

I CAN BEAT HIM.
IF I CAN SEE THROUGH THE MOVEMENT OF THAT CHAIN...

VWSH
VWSH
VWSH
TWITCH
IT ALMOST LOOKS ALIVE.
VWSH

Vissi

!
TUGG
THUD
UNGH...

NOT THE CHAIN AND SICKLE...
FOUR YEARS AGO, YOUR WEAPON WAS THE SWORD...
FICH
NOW YOU CALL YOURSELF BAIKEN AND YOU USE THIS WEAPON WITH SUCH PROFICIENCY...

ARGH ...

.....
VWSH
VWSH
VWSH

MY MASTER'S SITTING RIGHT THERE...

MY MASTER ...?
HMM...

WHO IS YOUR MASTER...?
.....

About the Author

VAGABOND was created by Takehiko Inoue, author of the best-selling manga *SLAM DUNK*, with over 100 million copies in print worldwide. Inoue received the 2000 Media Arts award for Manga from the Japanese Ministry of Culture as well as the 2000 Kodansha Award for best manga for his work on *VAGABOND*. Most recently in 2002, *VAGABOND* received the prestigious Tezuka award for best manga. To date *VAGABOND* has sold over 22 million copies throughout the world. In addition to his numerous manga titles, Inoue also created the character designs for the PlayStation basketball game, *ONE ON ONE*.

About *VAGABOND* and Miyamoto Musashi

Takehiko Inoue's *VAGABOND*, based on Eiji Yoshikawa's novel *MUSASHI*, is a fictional account of the life of Miyamoto Musashi (1584-1645). The historical figure Miyamoto Musashi, author of the philosophical strategy guide *A BOOK OF FIVE RINGS*, was a master of the sword and was revered as a "sword-saint." He founded the Niten Ichi style of sword fighting which is typified by fighting with both long and short swords at once—holding the long sword with the right hand and the short sword with the left. Musashi was also a master of the "gentler arts"—he was a master of *sumi-e* (black ink drawings), metalworking, and woodcarving. The films that comprise *THE SAMURAI TRILOGY*, directed by Hiroshi Inagaki and starring Toshiro Mifune, were also based on Yoshikawa's *MUSASHI*. Inspired by the huge success of *VAGABOND* in Japan, in 2003 NHK produced the historical period drama, *MUSASHI*. Also based on Yoshikawa's novel, this drama stars kabuki actor Shinnosuke Ichikawa as Musashi and TV star Ryoko Yonekura as Otsu.

A note on names:

The names presented within the context of this comic are presented in the traditional Japanese order—surname followed by first name. "Miyamoto" is Miyamoto Musashi's last name and "Musashi" is his first name. The name of the creator of *VAGABOND*, however, has been presented first name first, last name second. "Takehiko" is the author's first name and "Inoue" is his last name.

Glossary and Extraneous Background Information

Hozoin Spear Technique
Created by the Buddhist monk Kakuzenbo Hoin In'ei (1521-1607) of Hozoin Temple, which was a sub-temple of Kofukuji Temple in Nara. This spear technique is typified by quick dexterous movements rather than the use of brute force.

Kami'izumi Ise no Kami Hidetsuna (1508-1577(?))
The son of Kami'izumi Ise no Kami Hidetsugu, the lord of Kami'izumi Castle in present-day Gunma Prefecture. Hidetsuna founded the Shinkage-ryu Style of sword fighting, and was such an accomplished swordsman and military strategist that he was once recruited by the famed Takeda Shingen. Hidetsuna, however, declined the post, stating that he preferred to travel throughout the land so that he might perfect his swordsmanship. Many notable figures studied under Hidetsuna, including the esteemed Yagyu Munenori and Hozoin In'ei.

Sakushu
Located in modern day Okayama Prefecture.

Sasaki Kojiro
The legendary archrival of Miyamoto Musashi. Kojiro is believed to have studied the Chujo-ryu style of swordsmanship under the instruction of either Toda Seigen or Kanemaki Jisai. Kojiro was renowned for his *Tubame-gaeshi*, or "swallow-cut" technique which was inspired by the movement of a swallow in flight.

The Sengoku Period and the Battle of Sekigahara
The Warring States or *Sengoku* period (1482-1558) in Japan was a time of chaos and conflict. Central authorities, in the form of the imperial court and the shogunate, had grown increasingly weaker and the land was effectively ruled autonomously by numerous *daimyo* (domainal lords). Looking to expand their spheres of control, the *daimyo* were constantly at war with each other. One *daimyo* in particular, Oda Nobunaga, set out on a mission to unify Japan by means of conquest. Incredibly successful, by the time of his assassination in 1582, he managed to control approximately one-third of all of Japan. One of Nobunaga's chief generals, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, became Nobunaga's successor to carry on the quest for unification. Through a process of conquest and conciliation, Hideyoshi succeeded in creating an orderly federation amongst the *daimyo,* and by 1590, order was restored to Japan under Hideyoshi's rule. Hideyoshi's death in 1598, however, presented the question of succession. Most of the *daimyo* from the domains in the west remained loyal to the Toyotomi Clan and its five-year-old heir, Toyotomi Hideyori. Tokugawa Ieyasu, however, leading the major *daimyo* from central and eastern Japan, challenged the Toyotomi clan's leadership. The two sides clashed at the Battle of Sekigahara (1600) in Mino (located in present day Gifu Prefecture) where the Tokugawa claimed an overwhelming victory. From that point on, the Tokugawa clan would effectively rule Japan for the next 250 years.

Takuan Soho (1573-1645)
A monk of the Rinzai sect of Zen Buddhism, by the time Takuan was 37, he was appointed abbot of the leading temple of the Rinzai sect, Daitokuji. Takuan was an important figure whose acute and brutally honest advice was sought by influential and powerful figures such as Emperor Go Mizuno and the shogun Tokugawa Iemitsu. His correspondence to Yagyu Munenori discussing Zen and swordsmanship entitled *THE UNFETTERED MIND* has become an influential treatise in both the areas of philosophy and martial arts. The pickled daikon radish, *takuan*, also bears his name.

The Yagyu Clan
Yagyu Muneyoshi Sekishusai (1527-1606) was the founder of the famed Yagyu-Shinkage school of sword fighting. His son Yagyu Munenori (1571-1646) was one of Tokugawa's key generals at the Battle of Sekigahara. Munenori was appointed as the official fencing instructor of the Tokugawa Clan, and in 1632 the Yagyu were appointed as the *ometsuke*—responsible for the surveillance of the *daimyo*. Although the Yagyu clan has been depicted in Kazuo Koike's *LONE WOLF AND CUB* as the plotters of the downfall of Itto Ogami, the general Japanese popular culture take on the Yagyu Clan is more positive. More specifically, Munenori's son, Yagyu Jubei (1607-1650), is viewed as a wandering hero protecting the people from evildoers.

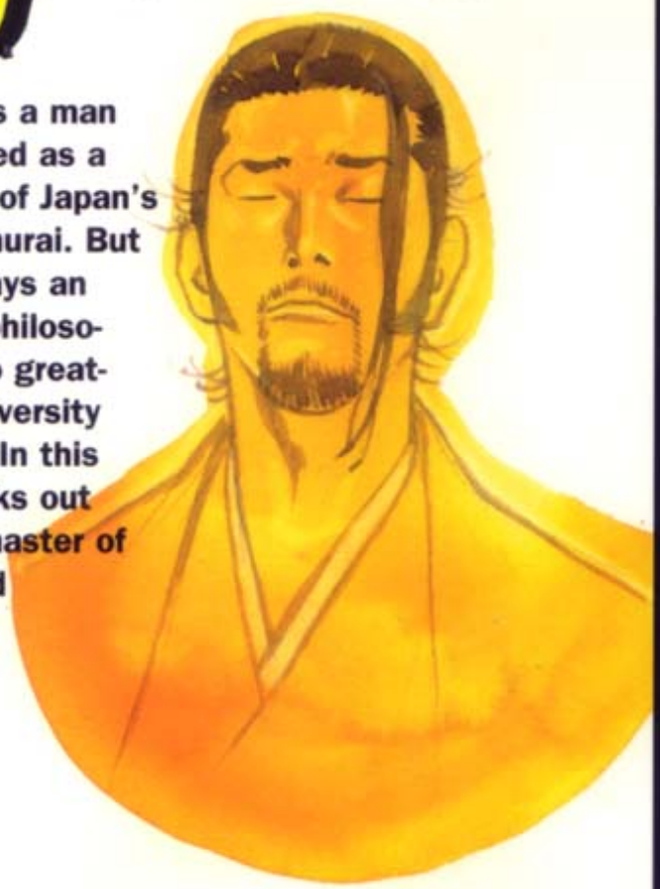
Yoshioka Kempo (dates unknown)
A distinguished warrior during the *Sengoku* period (1482-1558) and the founder of the renowned Yoshioka school of sword fighting. Yoshioka Kempo mastered the Kyohachi style of swordmanship and then modified it to form the Yoshioka style. In the context of Inoue's *VAGABOND,* as well as in Yoshikawa's *MUSASHI*, Yoshioka Seijuro and Denshichiro are Kempo's sons who are historically thought to have dueled with Miyamoto Musashi on numerous occasions.

editor's choice

VIZ Graphic Novel

$9.95 USA/$13.95 CAN

Vagabond



Miyamoto Musashi is a man destined to be revered as a sword-saint and one of Japan's most celebrated samurai. But Musashi wasn't always an enlightened warrior-philosopher—for the path to greatness is filled with adversity and perilous danger. In this volume Musashi seeks out Shishido Baiken, a master of the deadly sickle and chain. Will Musashi's sword be able to stand true against this most unusual of weapons?

VIZ

www.viz.com

This book reads from right to left.

RATED M FOR MATURE

ISBN 1-59116-434-6

9 781591 164340 50995

7 82009 17823 1 00995

VIZ

Fp: Facebook.com/meganebuk